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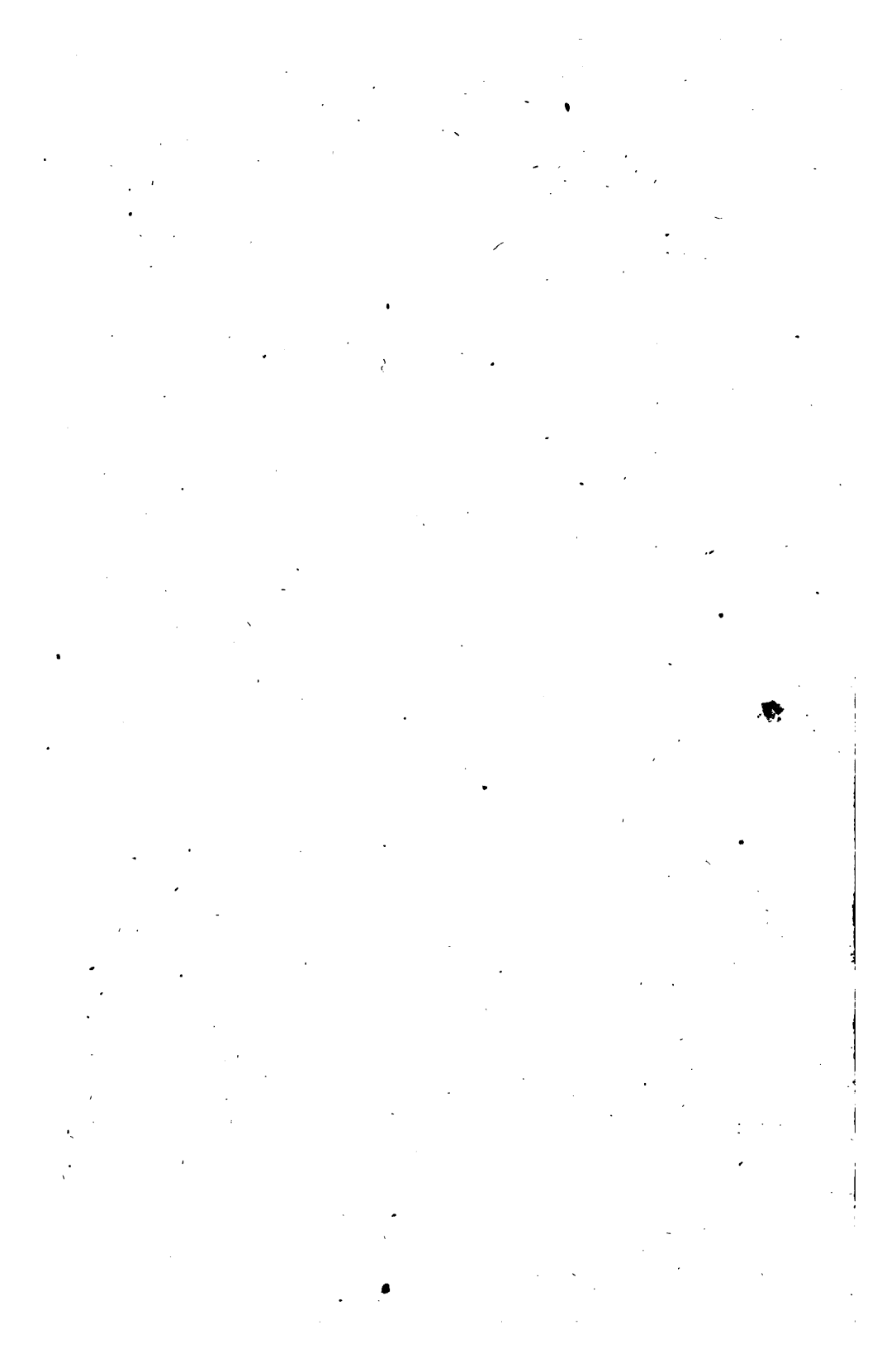
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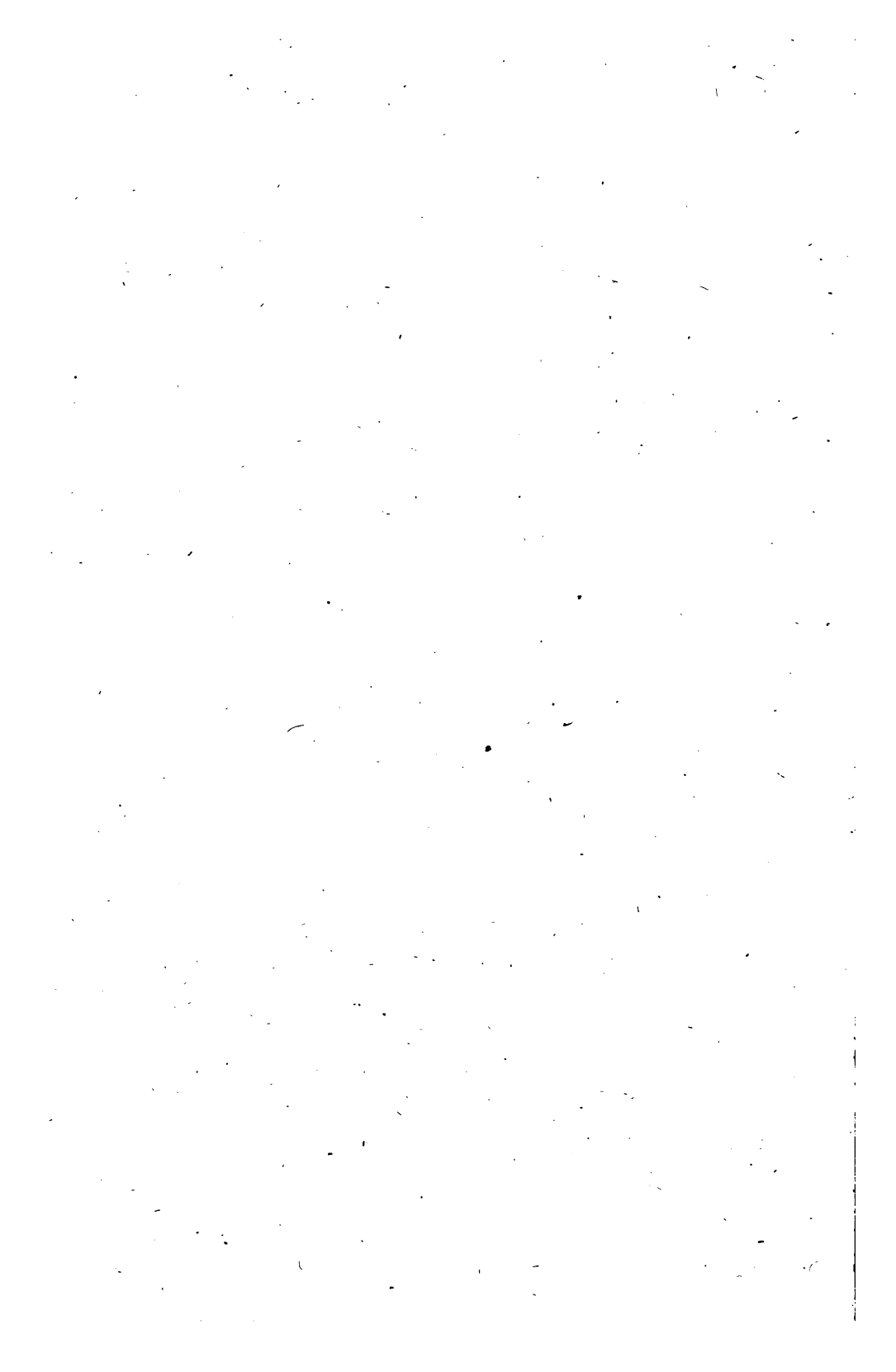
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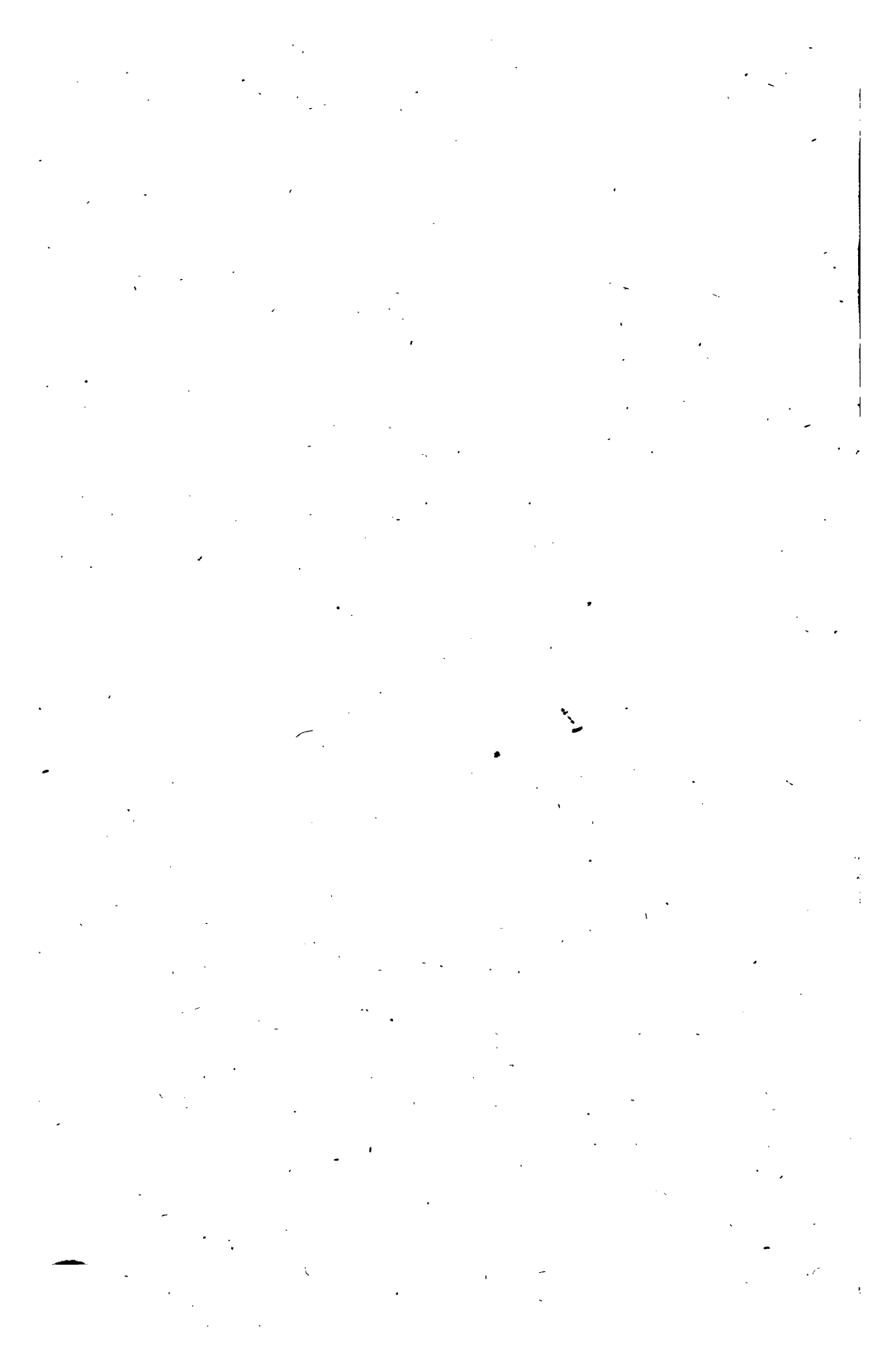




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LETTERS

WRITTEN DURING A TOUR THROUGH

SOUTH WALES,

IN THE YEAR 1803, AND AT OTHER TIMES;

CONTAINING VIEWS OF THE

HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, AND CUSTOMS

OF THAT PART OF THE PRINCIPALITY;

AND INTERSPERSED WITH OBSERVATIONS ON ITS

SCENERY, AGRICULTURE, BOTANY, MINERALOGY,
TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

BY THE REV. J. ^{John}EVANS, B.A.

LATE OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

AUTHOR OF LETTERS WRITTEN DURING A TOUR THROUGH
NORTH WALES.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR C. AND R. BALDWIN, NEW BRIDGE-STREET.

1804.

DA
730
E92X
1804

ADVERTISEMENT.

For the correction of some errata which were unavoidable, as the proof sheets could not be submitted to the eye of the Author, the reader is referred to a list of them printed at the end of the volume.

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*Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon aut Mitylenen
Aut Ephesum, limarisve Corinthi
Mœnia, vel Baccho Thebas, vel Apollinæ Delphos,
Insignes aut Thessala Tempe.
Sunt quibus unum opus est, intactæ Palladis urbem
Carminē perpetuo celebrare et
Undique decerpit frandi præponere olivam.
Plurimus in Junonis honorem
Aptum dicit equis Argos ditiesque Mycænas.
Me nec tam patiens Lacedæmon.
Nec tam Larissæ percussit campus opimæ,
Quam domus Albunæ resonantis,
Et præceptis Anio et Tiburni lucus et uda
Mobilibus Pomæria rivis.*

HORACE, Lib. i. Ode, 7.

‘ As in my lonely pilgrimage succeeds
Each sylvan view, mild or of grace severe,
That charms with loveliest interchange, I hail
Thee Albion! favour’d isle, sublimely rise,
Towering o’er bleak Helvetia, rocks on rocks;
Thro’ the deep vales, in wide expansion rush
Impetuous streams; and from the mountain brow
Dashes the foaming torrent: o’er thy skies,
Ausonia! suns without a cloud diffuse
Rich tints of glowing lustre; and the wreck
Of times remote, fanes and triumphal arcs
Strew thy historic ground: yet not the less,
Albion! o’er thee profusely Nature showers
Her gifts; with livelier verdure decks thy soil;
With every mingled charm of hill and dale,
Mountain and mead, hoar cliff and forest wide;
And thine the ruins, where rapt genius broods
In pensive haunts romantic, rifled towers
That beetling o’er the rock rear the grey crest
Embattled: and, within the sacred glade
Concealed, the abbey’s ivy-mantled pile,

SOTHEBY.



PREFACE.

THE remarks made in a Tour through North Wales having met with a very flattering reception, it was suggested by friends, that unless I paid an equal attention to South Wales, I should justly stand charged with partiality to one part of the principality: especially as I had traversed both with similar views of information and research.

I have been thus induced to submit the following observations on a very important part of the country to the public view; fully sensible that if they possess any claim to attention it must be found in accuracy of investigation, and faithfulness of description. Most of them having been made with the objects in sight; and while present at the places to which they refer. If it should be urged, that many have travelled over this country, and that even *Gleanings* have been published on the beauty of its scenery, and the peculiarity of its customs, I must reply by an observation made on a former occasion. Every man sees, or fancies that he sees, something unobserved before, and that error is detected, and truth confirmed by plenitude of information. In describing a beaten tract the utmost caution is necessary to escape animadversion; and if in such a case the description should possess any novelty, the author cannot justly be charged with indolence or inattention.

It may be added that few have travelled over this country in a scientific view: little therefore has been added to the stock of general information, which

Wales, from its numerous productions, it calculated to afford. The remarks of those who have travelled for pleasure have generally partaken of the nature of their motives; and the inaccuracy of their descriptions has, too often, resembled the rapidity of their steps. Useful travel has a twofold object. It endeavours to benefit the country it visits, while it labours to accumulate advantages for its own. If in ascertaining facts I have sometimes slightly animadverted upon authors, who fancy themselves entitled to more veneration and respect, and who conceive I have been too free with their works, I say, disclaiming every idea of personality, "*Amicus Plato, Amicus Socrates, sed magis amica Veritas.*"

The detail of castles and battles may, to the superficial reader, appear tedious and dull; but it was impossible for a mind awake to the reminiscence of the past not to advert to such eventful periods; and with the proud remains of other times in view not to recur to such extraordinary transactions.

The investigation of antiquities of a still more early date, if not calculated to please, are interesting in a more important view; as tending to illustrate the obscure parts of British history; ushering into view facts mistated or suppressed; raising up heroes inadvertently or politically consigned to oblivion; and thus giving to historic truth its just celebrity. In this respect the otherwise puerile knowledge termed numismatology rises into consequence in the scale of science. For any digression of this nature therefore utility must be my apology.

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A TOUR THROUGH SOUTH WALES.

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

THE pleasure I received from the romantic scenery of North Wales excited a strong desire of visiting the southern part of the principality; not doubting, but from its more varied history, mixed population, and extent of maritime boundary, it would furnish particulars satisfactory to know, and interesting to relate. You were pleased to express yourself so agreeably satisfied with my former sketches, that it gave me encouragement in this undertaking, and emboldened me again to address you upon a subject that some might consider as too trifling for public notice.

Accompanied by friends, whose views were similar to my own, and whose knowledge of the language and country were calculated to point out the most curious objects, and obtain the most correct information, I undertook the Tour of *South Wales*. A country, which, if less grand and romantic in its scenery than its northern neighbour, in a variety of pleasing and useful objects is calculated to make up the deficiency.

Desirous of going by water to the coast of Wales, we arrived early in June at the second city in the

kingdom, intending to visit in our way its beautiful and admired environs, *Clifton and the Hotwells.*

To give you any adequate description of this elegant village, and fashionable resort of the children of affliction or votaries of pleasure; its romantic situation, extraordinary waters, delightful walks and rides on the contiguous downs, accommodations, amusements and fashions of the place, would require a volume. Our object in this visit was to trace the rare productions of its rocks in botany and mineralogy; but more especially as this was an important Roman station, intimately connected with a chain of military posts, extending through the country we were going to traverse. No sooner had the Romans subdued any British towns of consequence, than they surrounded them with fortified camps—"Civitates præsidii et castellis circumdatae." Tac.)—for their protection and their own security; some temporary, others permanent and stationary; especially on the banks of navigable rivers, and other commanding situations. Thus forming a line of fortified posts, for defensive or offensive co-operations. About the year of Christ 50, their victories, which commenced in Kent, were extended under the Proprætor *Ostorius*, to the banks of the Severn. And, as a collateral defence, that prudent general secured the navigation of Bristol river. Julius Frontinus having crossed the former river, and completed the reduction of the Silures, the line was extended still westward to *Caerwent* and *Callena*, to *Maridunum* and *Menapia*.

On the high and opposite points of Leigh and Clifton Downs, in rocks that overhang the Avon, are the vestiges of three camps. They are of a semicircular shape, as nearly as the ground would admit; the land side being defended by four fosses and three bulla, formed of loose limestones, heaped to a considerable height, and cemented together by filling up the interstices with boiling mortar. Instances of which are discovered in digging, where the adhering parts are as tenacious, as the solid stone. The dimensions of this at Clifton are about two hundred yards in length, and about one hundred and fifty in breadth. A deep trench is cut through the solid rock, the whole length of the camp, on the side parallel with the river. This appears to be of much later date, and was probably an intrenchment of the royal or parliamentary forces, when they lay encamped on Leigh and Durdham Downs before the siege of Bristol. Those on the Leigh side are by far the largest. The eastern is now covered with forest trees. The western is somewhat smaller, in which, at the angle of two precipices, are the remains of a *prætorium*, of a circular form, and defended by a vallum and fosse. A deep ravine between these served as a passage down to the river, and a vadium, at low water, formed a communication with the opposite camp at Clifton. Various other traces of Roman fortifications are visible in the vicinity, both to the north and south. At Amesbury, Henbury, Stokeleigh, Fayland, Walton, and

4 *Roman Camps and Military Stations.*

Clevedon.* These were probably *campa æstiva*, vel *explorativa*, and all pointed to this spot, as the grand and principal station.

The height of these stations enabled the guards to descry an enemy in almost every direction, at a great distance, either by land or water, the Severn being visible for miles both up and down; and a fire kindled, would furnish an alarm beacon to all the collateral and subordinate posts. Indeed the importance of the station might be conceived from the means used to secure the advantages it gave; strong walls and treble ditches. Art strove to outvie nature in rendering this an impregnable fortress. Secured by an inaccessible precipice on one side, by ramparts on the other, a cwm leading to the river below, and a fort opposite the cwm; all combined to render it peculiarly terrible; and a strong post of defence against the desultory mode of warfare generally practised by the Britons. Situated on a large and navigable river, they could easily annoy an enemy by water; and on the land side, both to the north and south, in possession of a rich fertile country, they were furnished with the means, both of escape and defence, and within command of assistance from the other important stations of *Aqua Solis* and *Caerleon*.

* That these were Roman stations is evident, from the number of urns, coins, &c. that have been discovered in ploughing and digging foundations for buildings; now preserved in the cabinets of the curious. The coins are principally of the middle and latter Roman empire.

In a situation thus wisely chosen by this military people, they probably lived in garrison during winter, and in the summer occupying the country to a considerable extent, secured in its possession by the aforementioned fortified heights or *Agrarian camps*; and their vessels safely moored in *Polbury Pill*, where the small river *Trim* forms a junction with the *Avon*. You will, on these considerations, be ready with me to fix on this spot as the *Abone* of Antoninus. This being the most defensible post between *Aqua Solis* and those west of the *Severn*, and lying in the direct line, is a presumptive proof that it was the *Abone* of the Imperial Itinerary. Tacitus observes, "That Ostorius disarmed the suspected Britons, and fortified the *Avon* and the *Severn*." The station of *Sea-Mills* on the *Trim* to *Caer Oder*, or *Bristol*, with the different camps in the vicinity inclusive, may be considered as the *Abone* of the Romans. It is observed by the judicious *Horsley*, that, "The Romans were very careful to have their stations placed near a river, and there was no situation they were so fond of as a *lingula*, near the confluence of a large and small river; and if we run along a military line, we are sure to meet with a station wherever we find a river at any defensible distance from a preceding station." Baxter in his Glossary says, "*Antona* Tacitus dicitur, flumen *Abona*, quod aquas calidas, seu *Budoxam* præterfluit; etiamsi plurima fuerunt per universam *Britanniam*, etsi minoris notæ." Whitaker says, that *Afon* is often contracted into *Awn*;

6 *Fourteenth Iter of the Roman Emperor.*

and thence the Romans probably formed *Antoniam*.

Nothing perhaps has puzzled antiquarians more than the fourteenth Iter of the Roman Emperor. Each has suggested a different opinion, and each has been confident that his own must be right. That none has been perfectly satisfactory, argues the difficulty of the question; and that all have differed, proves most must be wrong. Therefore, in this case, there can be no harm in hazarding a conjecture. It has been justly observed, that if the extreme parts of the Iter were once settled, the intermediate places might be discovered without difficulty. But whoever attempts to pursue the steps of this illustrious Roman, must endeavour to trace a Roman road, or he will be liable to wander out of his way. A prevailing opinion of antiquarians is, that Oldbury is the Trajectus, and Alvington the Abone of the Iter. But the improbability of this opinion will appear, from the distance requiring an *unreasonable allowance*. To go from Bath to Oldbury, across the Severn, and then over the Wye to Caerwent, is such a diversion in the road, as was not usual with the Romans, who always went by the directest line. An additional objection is, that scarcely any Roman remains have been found to corroborate the opinion. And in cases where omissions have been made and errors crept in, from the ignorance of transcribers, some latitude must be allowed; and it is but just to correct or supply from authors of the same period,

and of equal authority. We shall therefore call in the assistance of the Itinerary of the monk of Cirencester,* and thus correct the questionable Iter.

Iter XIV. CIII. M.

Venta Silurum	IX. Caerwent.
Trajectus	IX. Portishead.
Abone	IX. Clifton and Leigh Camps.
Aqua Solis	XI. Bath.
Verlucione	XV. Westbury.
Cunetione	XX. Marlborough.
Spinis	XV. Speenham Land.
Callena	XV. Wallingford.

Of Venta Silurum there is no question. That Trajectus should be transposed, and stand next to Venta, is equally clear; because there is no place, which conjecture can furnish, answerable to this name, but the passage across the Severn: and the Iter of Richard places Statio Trajectus *before Abone*. The author of the *Britannia Romana*, strenuously opposes any change in the numbers, or transposition of the names; but the authority of Richard proves both may be right. Trajectus therefore appears to have been *Portishead Point*, at the mouth of the Avon, directly opposite the river Throggy; where is a

* This was a MS. discovered by Mr. Bertram at Copenhagen, 1749; the writing of which was pronounced, by Mr. Casley of the Cottonian library to be of the 14th century. The compiler was Richard, a native of Cirencester, who collected his materials from documents left by the Roman General Lollius Urbicus, who extended the conquests of that people into Scotland about A.D. 150. Vid. Whitaker's Hist of Manchester.

8 *Fourteenth Iter of the Roman Emperor.*

small pill for boats, and which is said to have been navigable up to Caerwent. At this point are vestiges of a camp, which defended the entrance of the river. The military road takes this direction. "I observed it," says Horsley, "to leave the high way to Chepstow, inclining to the south, and to bend its course towards the Severn; but I had no opportunity to trace it further." If he had pursued it, he would have discovered, that it led directly to the large camp at Sudbrooke, formed to defend the mouth of the Throggy, as that of Portishead was the mouth of the Avon. The mouths of these rivers are nearly in a direct line, and the distance exactly corresponds with the numbers of the Itinerary. With respect to the correction of the number opposite to Aqua Solis, substituting X for V, it may be observed, that where the places correspond to the Iter of Richard, the numbers often disagree; and in this the separate numbers, as they at present stand, do not collectively make up the sum total of CIII. But by inserting this change, which will answer nearly to the computed distance between the two stations, the aggregate numbers correspond with the number placed at the head of the Iter. What tends to confirm the conjecture is, that the Romans always, if possible, fixed their stations so as to be able to form communications by signals from one to the other. From the camp at Lansdown this of Clifton was visible; from Clifton that of Sudbrooke; and from Sudbrooke that of Caerwent.

The Avon flows beneath through a stupendous

chasm, the sides of which are immense lime-stone rocks of various kinds and colours, from light red to brown, dark grey, and black; consisting principally of marble, which, when polished, exhibits a pleasing variegation of vein and colour. It burns into a beautiful white lime, peculiarly sought for by the plasterer. Numbers of men are constantly employed in blowing up the rocks with gunpowder; whence the stone is carried coastwise to Devon and Cornwall, while the lime is packed in barrels, and exported as far as the *West Indies*. In the fissures of these rocks are varieties of spars, and those elegant crystals denominated *Bristol stones*. The spars are rhomboidal, stalactitic, and dog-tooth. The crystals, red, amethystine, diaphanous, and bright yellow; as beautifully formed as if cut by the most skilful lapidary. These two very different substances are frequently confounded; and those who collect them to sell to those who visit these extraordinary rocks, often vend the *spars* under the name of *crystals*. An easy criterion, however, is at hand. If you attempt to cut glass with spar, it breaks; and, if exposed to a red heat, quickly calcines into lime: it is corroded by the nitrous acid, by neither of which crystal is affected. They may also be distinguished by the form of their crystallization. The spars are triangular or pentangular; while the crystals are uniformly *hexangular*, and *terminate in a point*. We shall wonder less at the extraordinary relations of travellers, so properly ridiculed by the author of *Baron Munchausen*, when we are seriously told by

10 *Plants spontaneous in the Neighbourhood.*

Brann, in his *Theat. Urb. L. IV.* "That on the top of this rock, i. e. St. Vincent's, it is plain, are so many diamonds, that a ship may be loaden therewith." And there must have been more in the time of Camden to justify the observation, "that St. Vincent's rock was so stocked with *diamonds*, you might gather whole bushels full of them." Some few specimens of lead ore have, at times, been discovered; and we found great varieties of iron ore in the vicinity. Indeed from the change of the strata into ochreous limestone, as you approach the veins of coal, it is probable that iron might be sought for with success. The great variety of plants spontaneously growing in this neighbourhood, naturally suggested the idea of a botanic garden; and from the number of scientific men resident in Bristol, and frequenting the wells, such a plan was considered as embracing a most gratifying object. A subscription was set on foot by a few spirited individuals; but not meeting with support the scheme was relinquished.*

These rocks are as remarkable, for their equal, as amazing height. The strata, on both sides the river, reciprocally answering each other, both in substance and inclination: dipping towards the east in an

* *Apium graveolens*, *Campanula trachelium*, *Hieracium pilosella*, *Erica cinerea*, *Solidago virgo aurea*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *Arula muraria*, *Gentiana amarella*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Smyrniurn olusatrum*, *Salvia verbenaca*, the elegant *Arabis striata*, not noticed by Linnæus, and a rich variety of others.

angle of about 40 degrees with the plane of the horizon. Towards the summit of the highest rock is a large cavern, called the Giant's Cave, said to have been the hermitage or retreat of the holy St. Vincent, who had a chapel and oratory on the top.

A similar and as extraordinary chasm in limestone strata may be seen to the south of this, at the small village of Cheddar; and one of smaller extent at Ashton and Wick, through which runs the small river Boyd. The nature of such phænomena have long been a subject of geological inquiries, and various conjectures have been made, as to the original cause. Sir Robert Atkins, in his History of Gloucestershire, thought fit to insert the following relation. "Before the port of Bristol was settled in Frome river, there seems to have been a dispute, whether a place called Sea Mills was not as convenient a port as the other: several large and small ships having been built there. This occasioned the extravagant and fabulous story concerning St. Vincent and Goram, who it makes to be mighty giants; and who contended which way the rivers Avon and Frome should vent themselves into the Severn. If the port of Sea Mills had been judged more convenient, then Goram had prevailed; because his hermitage was at Westbury on the side of the brook Trim, which runs to Sea Mills. But the port of Frome being thought more advantageous, therefore the miracle relates, that St. Vincent clave the rocks asunder and so gave passage to the river,

because these rocks derive their name from a chapel there dedicated to this Saint." A laborious antiquarian has endeavoured to put a gloss on this idle tale, by supposing it an *allegory*. The religious Britons being pourtrayed in the person of St. *Vincent*; and the powerful warlike Romans, under the name of *Goram*. It cannot be denied that a proper regard to the whispers of tradition, though mixed with fable, might frequently lead to the discovery of truth; yet I am apprehensive, that the above and a thousand other idle stories, handed down by tradition, are no more than the winter lucubrations of our remote ancestors; the efforts of the rude and uncultivated mind to account for extraordinary appearances, by conjuring up gigantic powers strongly imagined and ridiculously expressed. Leaving the historian of Bristol in possession of his allegory, the adherents to the Huttonian theory will suppose it rent by some mighty earthquake at the bursting of a volcano: while those who believe, that, at the deluge, the whole earth was dissolved and reduced to a chaotic state, and the Flotz as well as other mountains derive their origin from its re-formation, will consider such chasms as the result of the strata acquiring consistency; and opening by exposure to external heat, as clayey soils are observed to do, during the heat of summer. Whereas those who hold with the universality of the deluge, and not in the *intire dissolution* of its shell, but that it was broken up, will consider such appearances as

proofs of such *disruption*; and as the channels by which the waters, at the Almighty fiat, retired again to the bed of the ocean.*

Having gratified our curiosity in the vicinity of Clifton, we took a boat and proceeded down the river. Nor can any thing exceed the beauty and sublimity of the rocks as they appear from the water. Impending cliffs tower on both sides, several hundred feet high, so near that they almost meet; having but just room for the river to roll her waters to the Severn. Sometimes they put on the appearance of verdant slopes mingled with *brush wood*, at others, they are bare, and boldly lift their variegated strata in perpendicular rock or hanging crag, with shrubs and forest trees growing out of their fissures in alternate and ever-varying prospect. Wild wooded ravines frequently interrupt the integrity of the line of sight, forming separate rocks. Sometimes the eye is charmed with the rich cultivated country in the distant foreground; at others, delighted with the salient angles of the rocks; the front and side screens continually changing and taking each others place. The intermixture of luxuriance and sterility, heightened by houses here and there erected for convenience and pleasure, which appear blended with the summits of the rocks in the horizon; the rich tints of light and shade alternately increasing and dimi-

* A project was suggested of throwing a bridge over the chasm, and uniting Leigh with Durdham Down. A celebrated architect gave a decided opinion as to the practicability of the plan; and 100l. was bequeathed towards its execution.

nishing on the sight, and gradually blending their varied effects, as we glided down the refulgent tide, rendered this though a short yet a delicious repast ; and were it not for the bursting torrents and fine cascades that so frequently accompany the mountain scenery in Wales, this might vie with many of the bold scenes in that highly varied and romantic country.

On the top of a rock, on the northern side of the river, with a hanging wood in front, stands a small circular building, in appearance like a military watch tower, which goes by the appellation of *Cooke's Folly*,* built by a person of that name, *A. D.* 1693, as an inscription over the door informs you. Who, having dreamed that he should meet his death by the bite of a viper, became the dupe of superstitious melancholy; endeavouring to take precautions as strong as his fears, he erected this building and immured himself within its walls, receiving his provisions and other articles in a basket, and depending on this envelope for security. As those who place confidence in such dreams will readily subscribe to the doctrine of destiny, they may be told that he realized the warning of the visionary monster. A viper concealed in a faggot that lay ready to replenish the fire, reanimated by the warmth, sprang out and inflicted a fatal wound on this unfortunate recluse.

* I have often admired the observation of Montesquieu, "That if all are acts of folly that men perform for their comfort or security, however mistaken in the proper mode of procuring it, I am afraid that but a very small portion of mankind will escape the imputation."

Such relations, if true, discover to what drudgery false religion subjects her votaries ; and to what a miserable state improper views of this and a future world reduce the human mind;

(“ We feel a thousand deaths in fearing one.”)

and how little dependence should be placed on any precautions of our own for preservation, surrounded as we are by a thousand ills, that may momentarily undermine our health, or deprive us of life. It reminds us how necessary it is in our hours of vigilance, as well as relaxation, to depend on the power and goodness of *Him* who is about our path and about our bed ; the only defender against the pestilence that walketh in darkness, as well as the arrow that flieth by noon-day. How jealous, my friend, should we be of those that would wantonly rob us of the comfort arising from the belief in a superintending providence.

On the same side of the river we passed what we have before alluded to under the name of *Sea Mills*, at the confluence of the Trim and Avon. In this place the Romans are said during winter to have laid up their galleys. There was a large floating dock capable of containing a quantity of shipping safely moored, where they discharged their cargoes by means of lighters. But the expense and inconvenience arising from the shipping and unshipping of goods occasioned it to be neglected. A project was afterwards set on foot to make it a depôt for a *whale fishery*, and several ships were fitted out in

this lucrative trade : but on the discovery of the advantages derived from refining the blubber on the fishing coast, this undertaking failed. Some business was carried on in building and refitting ships, but the dock getting out of repair, and the proprietors disagreeing, the concern was entirely abandoned. It remains a monument of what might be done, rather than what has been done, for the improvement of the port of Bristol, and demonstrates the capability, if the spirit of the place were equal to its natural advantages, of its being made the first place for shipping trade in the kingdom.*

At a small distance, on the south side of the river, is a fine old mansion, famed for the asylum it afforded, when occupied by a Mr. Norton, to the heir of the unfortunate Charles, in his almost miraculous escape after the battle of Worcester. The strange manœuvres made use of for this part of his flight, and the accidents the king met with at Mr. Norton's, when he rode as a servant before Mrs. Lane, are too well known to bear recital here. It is an anecdote of the family and neighbourhood, that the king had been here but a few days, before the rebels, then in possession of Bristol, heard of his having passed through it, in disguise, to the southward. Parties were sent out in every direction, and one to search *minutely Mr. Norton's house*. There was no opportunity of escape, and an expedient was thought

* While this work was going to press, a spirited scheme was set on foot and adopted for this purpose, and an act obtained to raise money for its execution.

of to evade, if possible, the eyes of the pursuers. The king exchanged clothes with a husbandry servant of Mr. Norton's, and, habited as a peasant in a smock-frock, rustic shoes and stockings, and coloured handkerchief about his neck, was appointed an appendage of *the kitchen*. At the anxious moment the rebels entered the house, the cook was busily engaged in dressing her dinner, and scolding the *new turnspit* for letting the meat burn, and, lifting up the ladle, was in the very act of giving him bodily correction for his idleness and inattention. The manoeuvre had the desired effect; the rebels little suspecting the object of their search would be suffered to remain in so open and exposed a situation. There is still shewn, as a sacred relick, a *jack* which this menial friend was complaining the king had neglected to wind up; and little doubt can be entertained of the authenticity of the story. While it furnishes another instance of the indefatigable zeal exercised by the king's friends, and the peculiar providence that seemed to preside over the royal personage, from the hiding in the oak at *Boscobel* to the interview at *Breda*, that led to the restoration, may the recollection of those times be a lesson to the petty and intermeddling politicians of the present day.

We now got a sight of the beautiful seat of Lord de Clifford. The park is well wooded, the ground diversified, and the views both up and down the rivers Avon and Severn, and the opposite coast of Wales, are peculiarly fine. The house is well situated on an

eminence; but it does not produce an effect adequate to its size or elevation. It was built from a plan of the celebrated Sir John Vanbrugh, and the edifice partakes of his general manner; being devoid both of dignity and taste. It has been defended from the charge of heaviness, on the necessity of its arising from its exposed situation. This goes upon the erroneous opinion, that heaviness and strength are inseparably connected; and that lightness of appearance is incompatible with stability. Such persons little understand the principles of effect. The elegant fretwork and tracery of many of our Gothic edifices produce the effect of great lightness, without diminishing the strength of the building. The massy appearance of King's Weston House, will be discovered to arise from the architect adhering to Grecian ornaments, without attending to Grecian proportion. The base is too extensive for the superstructure, and the entablature is the size of the principal front. The eye in surveying it seems to have lost a portion sunk into the earth, and this deficiency is heightened by several clumps of plantations, closely adjoining the front of the building.

The river now becomes much deeper, and a wall of rock, furnished with mooring rings and chains, forms a small harbour for large ships, called Hungroad, probably from ships dropping anchor here, and delivering part of their cargo short of the principal port. On a pill below, on the south-western side, is a small village inhabited by pilots and fishermen, called Crockerne Pill. This place was so notorious

formerly for the mal-practices of its inhabitants, as to occasion an edict to be issued, 1635, for demolishing all the houses. A similar decree, by letters patent, was issued under Oliver Cromwell, and put in execution, 1656. The plea for this oppressive measure, while rights and liberty were the language of the day, was the continual damage done to the mooring posts and chains placed along the river, and kept in repair by the incorporated society of merchant adventurers. Houses were, however, soon again erected, and it now assumes the shape of a small but populous town. The principal residents are pilots, who meet the ships in the channel and conduct them into port, and are appointed, their numbers being limited, with two warners and stipulated fees, under the above society. Whether the morals of its present inhabitants are better than their predecessors, we had no opportunity of ascertaining; but to shew the importance of places, as well as persons, not forfeiting a good name, the present generation are branded with a title not calculated to enhance their reputation.

The land on both sides gradually flattens, and the river widens into a noble æstuary. That on the northern side stretches away to the north-east, and that on the southern, south-west; extending into the promontory of Portishead; forming the harbour or rather small bay of *Kingroad*; where ships outward or homeward bound find safe anchorage, while waiting for wind to go down channel, or sufficient water to go up to Bristol. Each of these points of land was

defended with forts, one of four brass 32-pounders; mounted upon double swivel carriages; that is, with an horizontal as well as a vertical movement; said to have been the invention of Bonaparte.* By which ingenious contrivance a single man could instantly level on any part of the compass, either on the land or sea side. Were it not that reputed strength often produces real security, the inhabitants of the commercial port they were meant to protect, might esteem themselves happy in being possessed of a much more effectual defence than forts *constructed like these: the difficult and dangerous navigation of the Severn sea.* The one at Portishead is erected within the area of one of very ancient date; which we were informed was the work of the parliamentary forces during the civil war. It was in the possession of the royal party, and mounted with six pieces of cannon; but submitted, after four days resistance, to the rebels under Generals Fairfax and Cromwell, 28th August 1645, by which a communication was opened with the fleet in Kingroad, under the command of vice-admiral Moulton, who had been ordered round from Milford-Haven to assist in the siege of Bristol. Supposing them in the possession of the adjoining heights, a stronger position could not be chosen. Nor was this the only instance in

* This, though highly ingenious, has been considered as prejudicial rather than beneficial on ship-board. The two movements counteracting each other, and while time is lost by this, the repercussion was much greater. The brass ordinance in question were taken on board *La Sans Parcil*.

which those two able generals displayed their military skill, by encamping, when possible, on the fortified stations which the Romans had left, and exhibiting their own prudence by not disregarding the wisdom of antiquity. Examining the ramparts, which extend quite round the point, we discovered traces of Roman masonry, and from a village near being called *Por*, or *Port-bury*, there can be little doubt but this was the *Statio Trajectus* mentioned in the Itinerary.

Returning to our boat, and dropping with the ebb round the point into a small bay to the southward, we anchored near in shore ; and, under the hospitable shelter of the promontory, partook of a repast with the relish afforded by a good appetite. On the turn of tide we pursued our little voyage, passing a small bare rock, the *Denny*, standing at the head of an extensive sand-bank, called the *Welsh Hook*, and to which it forms an admonitory beacon.

The finny tribes were now in pleasing pastime ; and among them the plunderer of the ocean, the porpoise, was playing his gambols with unusual rapidity. This, which afforded us pleasure, had a contrary effect upon the minds of our boatmen. The appearance of this fish is considered an unfavourable omen by mariners, and from their numbers and frolics a storm was foreboded. We began to consider a small open boat but ill-calculated to weather a storm in the boisterous Severn Sea. The morning was serene, and the water as placid as the day was fine ; but we had forgotten that the present is no security for the

22 *The Shoots, a dangerous Navigation.*

future; and that in voyages, as in life, we should be equally prepared for adverse as well prosperous fortune. For though a calm does not *forebode*, it generally is soon *succeeded* by winds and storms. The sea became rougher and rougher, and the hoarse noise of impetuous waves contending with opposing obstacles increased our alarm, and reminded us of danger. As we approached, we discovered this to be occasioned by two reefs of rocks running almost across, leaving only a narrow channel sufficient for vessels to pass, which are bare at low, and covered at high, water. At half ebb, or half flood, the best times for passing, the whole body of the estuary rushes between them with an impetuosity and thundering noise almost inconceivable. The least want of skill or care would be inevitable loss to ship and crew. This difficult and dangerous passage is called *The Shoots*, probably from the rapidity with which vessels necessarily pass it. While congratulating ourselves on a safe passage through the Shoots, we could not help lamenting an act of atrocious cruelty which a sight of the spot where it was committed, brought strongly to our recollection. At a small distance is the principal and most frequented ferry into Wales, called the *New Passage*, belonging to the respectable family of *St. Pierre*. A suit in Chancery between the Duke of Beaufort and Mr. Lewis respecting the right of property, brought to light the following curious incident in the life of King Charles II.

“His Majesty leaving Ragland Castle to visit his garrison at Bristol, had to cross at this passage; as he

rode through the village of Shire Newton to go to the Black Rock, he was discovered and pursued by a foraging party of horse, belonging to the rebel army then encamped in the neighbourhood. About an hour after his Majesty had embarked, sixty of the rebels arrived, and drawing their swords on the boatmen, forced them on board one of the passage boats; and by menaces obliged them to engage in ferrying them over. The boatmen being loyal and irritated by the manner in which their assistance was demanded, landed them at the reef of rocks, on the Gloucestershire side of the Shoots, called the *English Stones*; and which are separated from the land by a channel fordable at low water; but the tide, now rapidly flowing, prevented their retreat, and they all perished!" Cromwell, hearing of it, suppressed the ferry, which was not again re-opened till 1718, when the right of property was confirmed to the claimant, Mr. Lewis, by a commission of the high court of chancery. It is said to be owing to this suspension and renewal of the ferry, that it obtained its present familiar epithet of *new*.

We landed at the Black Rock inn, so denominated from a rock near it, which, being weather-beaten, puts on this appearance. *Sherestone*, for that is its name, consists of freestone equal in quality to that of Portland; but it has been very much diminished by repeated quarrying. A small artificial pyramid denotes the height of tide, and serves as a mark for vessels going up and down the Severn. This landing place was formerly called *Portscewis*;

and a spot in the vicinity still retains the appellation. The derivation has been sought in *Porth Iscoed* or the *lower wooded port*; but it is more probably of Roman origin. The Romans would endeavour to secure a landing place somewhere near their chain of fortified posts. And as they could find no place so near, without the inconvenience and delay of waiting for a second tide, it may fairly be conjectured that this was the usual landing place; though the Throggy might have been the place where they laid up their galleys. *Porta* was the common name of the termination of a ferry; and *ad scutam*, an expression for any thing to the *left hand*. In *Porta ad scutam* we may easily discover the corruption of *Portscewit*. The ferry above at *Aust*, is evidently of greater antiquity than this; whether the name be derived from *Augustus* or *Ostorius*. This was used by Julius Frontinus, as more convenient for his general plan of subjugating this part of the country; and might take its name, as the place of landing to the south-west or left of the usual one at *Aust*.

During Welsh independence, it was esteemed the south-eastern boundary of the principality; as that of Port Hoigar in Anglesea, was to the north-west.

Marianus, who wrote a history from the birth to the year of Christ 1083, says "At Port Skith Harold built a fort, as a defence against the Welsh, A. D. 1066: which that people demolished under Caradoc." This fact is thus recorded by the Welsh historian. "Gryffyd ap Llewelyn having provoked the anger of Edward, by harbouring the traitor

Algar, Earl of Chester; Harold, son of Earl Godwyn, was sent against him, with the promise of assistance from Caradoc ap Gryffyd, who expected, on the death of Llewelyn, to have been put in possession of the government of South Wales. Disappointed by the appointment of Meredith ap Owen, (at the request of Harold) Caradoc vowed revenge against *him* and the whole nation of the English; for which he was quickly banished the principality. Harold having been victorious, and realized his wishes, in placing his favourite in possession of South Wales, set up stones in various places with this inscription: "*Hic fuit victor Harold,*" which our English histories have not elucidated. He then built an elegant house at *Porta Skith*, and having stored it with all manner of provisions, splendidly entertained the king; who, to congratulate him on his success, condescended to pay him a visit at this place. (*Vid. Powel.*) As Marianus mentions a *fort*, this was probably a fortified mansion; such as most of the Baronial residences were in times so tumultuous as at this period of our history. The Welsh chronicle states that Caradoc soon gave a finishing stroke to the royal entertainment. Breathing revenge against Harold, he came down with a party collected in the mountains, massacred the servants, and demolished the building; Harold himself narrowly escaping with life.

We were now upon the land of the ancient *Silures*, long the theatre of British valour and Roman prowess; where the brave *Caractacus*, at the head

of the enraged and insulted Britons, charged the veteran legions of Rome with such consummate skill and determined bravery, as astonished their generals; and threw consternation and dismay among the invincible troops of the Empire. At a period when the proud invader was taught that there were men possessed of ability and courage, besides those who bore an eagle on their standard; that to subjugate a people unenfeebled by luxury and vice requires more than presumptuous menaces;* and to change the laws and customs of a country is not the department of the *spear and target*. Often discomfited, and as often rallying under their courageous leader, they made a noble and obstinate defence against superior power: till at length deserted by those whose interest it was to support him, and whose safety lay in espousing his cause, the noble Caractacus, overmatched by the numbers and discipline of the Roman arms, was obliged to yield; and was dragged to Rome, the victim of undeserved calamity, to grace the triumph of the conqueror. Yet so formidable an antagonist

* What rendered the conquest of Britain still more difficult, was a weak expression of one of the weakest of emperors, *Claudius*: "That they were to be *extirpated*, or as entirely extinguished as the *Segambri* had been before them." From that period, under a variety of leaders, they engaged the Romans in a long and arduous war. The history of that country shews, what effect was produced by "*Deleta est Carthago*;" and it must be in the recollection of every one, how the energy of this country was called forth and roused against France by the inhuman edicts of a *Marat* and a *Robespierre*.

was he considered, as to become the theme of their ovationary orators; and though a prisoner in chains, so dignified in his manner, as to excite admiration in the conquerors of the world.

All Rome was still, and nations stood at gaze ;
Forth came the mighty chief august in chains,
Unbroken, unsubdued ; his dauntless brow
Lost not its conscious grandeur ; round he look'd
With steady glare, a lion in the toils ;
Yet mindful of his fate, to Cæsar's throne
He bow'd majestic, and thus calmly spake.
" Had moderation sway'd my prosperous days
" Rome had beheld me Cæsar's guest and friend.
" Nor blush'd ; descended from a scepter'd race
" That rul'd Britannia's independent isle
" Beyond all annals of recording fame.
" If Rome commands, must vassal worlds obey ?
" What ! not resist ? who not defend their rights,
" Deserve not. Cowards only should be slaves.
" Yes I had arms, and weakh, and friends, and fame.
" What ! tamely give them up ? Disgrace indeed !
" That I so long withstood your baffled powers,
" Forgive me, Roman virtue, that offence !
" Had I a cheap and easy conquest proved,
" *My* ruin and *your* glory had been less.
" Oblivion soon had veiled my dastard name
" Unworthy Cæsar's pity. Death, or life
" Are at *his* dread disposal. That or this
" I neither fear to meet nor scorn to ask."

SNEYD DAVIES.

Our veneration was strongly excited at the recollection of such valour and virtue in our ancestors,

and we cordially saluted the land, that had afforded such a brilliant display of it.

Yours, &c. S. E.

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR,

WALES may with emphasis be called an historic country. Every ride and walk is strewn with vestiges of ancient warfare, or curious art; and every vale and mountain furnishes some marks to shew,

“ Where stern oppression led the close phalanx,
“ And wild and desperate freedom made her just defence;
“ Or led her sons to victory and revenge!”

Nor can the mind of sensibility avoid contemplating, as it passes, the scenes of such transactions; and by an association that memory never fails to furnish on the occasion, becoming a partaker in them. We experience a sort of soothing melancholy, by assimilating our ideas to the face and appearance of a country; and while we feel the most poignant regret at the folly of mankind, and weep over the effects of oppression and cruelty, we feel relief in reflecting, that we live in a period, when the nature of society is much better understood; the powers of the governors, and the privileges of the governed so adjusted, as not to clash with each other; and when that protection and liberty which occasioned

so much bloodshed and slaughter, are the unalienable birth-right of Britons, and guaranteed by the inestimable laws of our country; when armed petitioners are no longer necessary to procure the restoration of property alienated by violence, or to replace the ousted heir in the possession of his patrimony; when these massy piles termed castles are not expedient to procure the obedience of a turbulent society, in the hands of an aspiring aristocracy; or to check the inordinate strides of regal prerogative and oppressive power: a period when the great mass of the people are admitted into the back ground of the national picture; and the opprobrious names of *vassal* and of *villein* no longer obtain a place in our statutes: when every individual is included in the family compact; the peer and the peasant are equally considered in the cognizance of the law, and the life, liberty, and property of the *one* esteemed of equal importance with those of the *other*.

Various opinions have been stated respecting the situation and extent of the country inhabited by these warlike Britons, and antiquarians are far from being decisive on the question. Camden, allowing Ptolomy's authority, terms it the *Wence Land* of Leland, the country called by the Welsh *Deheubardd*, or the southern territory; comprehending the counties of Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock, and Glamorgan. Tacitus derives their origin from Iberia, on account of their complexion; and F. D. Campo finds the name of Siluria among the Asturias of Spain. Others take it from the islands of Scilly,

formerly denominated *Serlings*. That they were emigrants of Gaul there can be no doubt, from the similarity of their language, dress, and manners. It has been conjectured that they were called Silures from *sil*, *aspicio*, to look at; from their ruddy complexion and dark piercing eyes producing a boldness of countenance which struck terror into their enemies. By this trait they were known and distinguished among the Romans; for they are described by Tacitus, as a formidable fighting race, "*Validamque pugnacemque Silurum gentem.*"

From this ferocious appearance and their prowess in war, they might have been noticed as the Siluræ among the petty kingdoms of Britain; and the Romans, to adopt it to the genius of their language, would call them Silures, and the country Siluria.* Even the author of the Affairs of Britain, who, as a Roman, must be partial to his own people, allows that the Britons shewed more courage than their Gaulish neighbours; and the Silures were remarkable for an obstinate intrepidity, dignified by the writer of the Annals with the emphatic term of *pervicacia*. And a better word could not be found in the Latin language for that determined bravery so frequently displayed in the conduct both of them and their descendants. Had not the author inform-

* Lewis Morris derives the word from *istlwy*, i. e. *lowlanders*, or the inhabitants of the ower part of Wales, occupying the country between the Severn and the Wye; as he also derives Ordovices from *arddyfeich*, i. e. the inhabitants north of the Dyfi.

ed us of this, we might have made the same deduction from the long struggle they maintained with the invaders; the vast establishment had recourse to for their reduction, and their late subjugation to the Roman arms. For this event did not take place till near *two centuries* after the landing of Julius Cæsar; and even subsequent to this period the remnant that fled to the fastnesses of the Ordovices, supported a constant though unequal contest till the death of Titus.

About half a mile from the Ferry is the large Roman camp of *Sudbrooke*. Those who term it square cannot have surveyed it, as it is of a semicircular shape, defended by four fosses and three valla, standing on a cliff, rising abruptly from the plain, and perpendicular towards the Severn sea. The length two hundred and forty yards, breadth seventy-four. It appears to have been originally much larger, the sea having undermined the cliff, which is continually falling. On the north side, near the outer foss, stands a small Gothic chapel dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The walls are entire, but the roof fallen in. How long this has been in a dilapidated state we could not learn, but on removing some of the rubbish, we found inscribed stones of as low a date as 1745. Such a circumstance, on our first entrance into Wales, gave us no favourable opinion of attention to the state of religion in this part of the principality.

To the south of Sudbrooke the country for miles is one continued flat, known by the name of *Caldecot Level*; where the meadows are divided by inclo-

tures, called roins, or large tide ditches, similar to lands in the vicinity of the rivers Brue and Ax.

An event that would induce us to think that more attention was formerly paid to this feanny tract than at present, is recorded by Camden.—“ Much of it is now frequently inundated by high tides; but in 1666 it suffered a terrible devastation from the Severn Sea, during an equinoxial tide. The sea having been driven back by a south-east wind, and continuing to blow hard for three days and nights, repulsed the waters so forcibly, as to occasion this extensive flat to be overflowed, and the opposite coast of Somerset; throwing down a variety of buildings, and drowning a number of men and cattle.” (vide Camd. II. 715.) In the history of Bristol it is recorded also, that at this time the sea-banks in the neighbourhood of that city were overflowed, and the port for some years considerably injured. From these coincident circumstances, and the gradual encroachment of the sea on the western and south-western parts of our coast, it would appear that what are termed the Welsh grounds, formed a part of this extensive moor. Through it runs the small river Throggy, said, but with little probability, to have been once navigable to Caerwent. Though a very narrow pill, it contains a considerable depth of water at flood tide. Numerous small vessels are built here, and a ship of four hundred tons was now caulking upon the stocks.

In the midst of this marshy flat stand the ruins of *Caldecot Castle*, which is termed by Camden “ A

shell belonging to the Constables of England.”— Hugh de Balledin, who had the conquest of this part of the country committed to him by William, and which afterwards devolved upon the office of Chief Constable of England, was probably the founder. It is a large pile, of an irregular shape, the walls flanked by several round bastions, with a noble gateway, comprising two square towers and two *portcullises*; the upper side defended by a mote, and the lower side by the Throggy. This has had little more to do with the records of history than as being the birth place of the usurper Bolinbroke. But the magnificence of the building, its isolated scite, and the gloom of an extensive flat, induced reflection; and we heaved an involuntary sigh over the periods that were filled with perpetual commotions, and only marked by fraternal slaughter. Turning to the north-west we regained the road, and were struck with a field containing about twenty acres, whose hedge-rows were planted with cherry trees,* which have attained a size that would be incredible to those accustomed to cultivated orchards of this delicious fruit. At a distance they assume the appearance of beech trees, extending their branches far and wide; and measuring in girt from eight to twelve feet. Had Evelyn been indulged with such a sight, he would have honoured the cherry with a place in the

* The *prunus avium*. The hedges in this part of the country are formed of the variety β of the *cratægus oxycantha*, with crimson blossoms, which in May gives them a glowing appearance.

rank of forest trees in his invaluable *Sylva*.—We now found ourselves in a Roman road, the *Julia Strata* of the ancients, extending in a direct line from Sudbrooke camp, at right angles, through that at Caerwent to Caerleon, so called from Julius Frontinus, the legate and proprætor under the Emperor Vespasian, commanding the second legion and the auxiliary troops for the conquest of the Silures, about the year 71; or, according to others, from Julius Agricola, about the year 80. Others suppose the Romans not to have been settled in this part of the island till the close of the second, or commencement of the third century; and are of opinion this road took its name from Julia, wife of one of the prefects, quoting an inscription dug up near it:—*Julia esseunda vixit annos XXXV.* as in many other parts of the kingdom Roman roads are called *Sarn Helen*, from *Helena* wife of Constantine the Great. Such frequently is the spirit of conjecture and prejudice in favour of an idea started by ourselves, that were it not that the ascertaining of historic facts is of consequence to posterity, it would not be desirable to encounter antiquarians. In the present case, to admit the latter conjecture would be nothing less than to relinquish the testimonies of Tacitus and Vegetius.

By this road we entered the town of Caerwent, which, though it flourished under the auspices of the Romans in Britain, has now only to boast of a few scattered cottages, the wretched memorial of the consequence once attached to the *Venta Silurum* of

that people ! It was of a square form, and about the dimensions of Segontium in North Wales. The walls on the south and east sides are still visible, with remains of bastions or round towers. A dispute has arisen whether the present walls are not of Saxon origin ; but where the facings have been removed the peculiarity of Roman masonry is sufficiently obvious : being built zig-zag, or what is termed her-ring-back fashion ; containing bricks acknowledged to be of Roman manufacture ; and the towers on the south side, as well as the walls, are similar to others admitted as Roman, in those stations erected in *linea valli*, as Segontium in Caernarvonshire, and the Gaer near Brecknock. Various remains have been dug up and deposited in the cabinets of the curious. But one is still stationary, it is a curious tessellated pavement, discovered in an orchard belonging to Mr. Lewis, as the labourers were digging holes to plant young fruit-trees. The measurement is twenty-one feet by eighteen ; probably once square and much larger, as at present there is a want of uniformity in the pattern. It is composed of red, blue, yellow, and white tessellæ ; or small oblong pieces of limestone and terra cotta, about three-fourths of an inch long, half as much broad, and half an inch in depth, artificially placed in a cement, so as to represent a rich variegated carpet. The pattern represents rays issuing from the centre, and encircled by waving lines regularly entwining each other. In the centre is a large rose, and at the extremity of each diverging line (of which there are

ten) is a smaller one; and the corners seem to have been furnished with similar decorations. Some years ago it was surrounded by a wall, and covered in for its preservation, but the roof is now gone, the door down, and this curious vestige of antiquity suffering daily dilapidation, and will probably soon become a sacrifice to the impertinent hand of idle curiosity.*

It has been conjectured that this was the state room of the prefect of the second legion, as it was a custom for the Roman soldiers to carry tessellæ with them, to adorn the pretorium of their generals. But other Mosaic pavements have been discovered more highly ornamented; particularly three found in a garden here A. D. 1689. More probably therefore this was a mode of decorating the floors of superior people, as numbers of those tessellæ, of all colours, are frequently dug up, about two or three feet beneath the surface. In a few centuries after, this method seems to have been improved upon by making square flooring brick, in shape similar to Dutch tile, but much thicker, having various flowers and figures formed by inlaying several coloured clays, and afterwards assisted by different glazes. Such constituted the floors of many ancient abbies, and some curious specimens I have seen from Ewenny and Tintern on the Wye. The tessellated pavements doubtless furnished the idea which gave rise to an extraordinary

* In the crevices grow *statia armeria*, *mentha sativa*, *onopordum acanthium*.

scheme undertaken some years ago, to perpetuate the fine paintings of Raphael, Guido, Poussin, Correggio, &c. to the latest posterity, by copying their best pieces with variously stained and coloured marble in the floor of St. Peter's at Rome.

Caerwent however retained its consequence long enough to give its name to the county of Monmouth, and those parts of Hereford and Gloucestershire which long received the appellation of *Gwent Land*, from *Verta*, called by the Britons *Gwent*.* In a MS. of Llandaff, it is mentioned as a place dedicated to learning, and far famed for its academy, which a disciple of St. Germanus governed with great commendation, who, from being a religious anchorite, was solicited by Prince Cradoc ap Inyr to fill this important and honourable station.

Descending into the vale, we crossed the Uske by a long wooden bridge of extraordinary appearance, and curious structure. The tides in this river rise to a prodigious height, fifty and sixty feet. To prevent the frequent inconvenience to which a bridge would be subject by the sudden flow of such a vast body of water, a contrivance has been had recourse to, which hitherto has answered the desired purpose. The breadth is just sufficient for a carriage to pass, and the length considerable, extending itself till the arcades rest on the midway of the rising grounds on each side the river. The arches, if such they can

* *Gwent* is derived from *gwen*, fair or beautiful, and is supposed by some writers to be synonymous with *Silur*.

be called, are formed by large posts meeting at top in an angle, and tied together by cross beams ; over these are laid strong bearers, and, in a transverse direction, loose planks, confined in their respective places by verticle pins passing through their ends, upon which they freely rise and fall with the flowing and ebbing tide. Were it not for this ingenious precaution, the extraordinary swell of the river at the equinoxes would blow up the whole fabric. The open balustrade of a few light rails, the depth at low water to the river, the moving floor under your feet, are terrific to a stranger ; and few horses that are not accustomed to such scenes, can be prevailed on to encounter this alarming, though safe entrance into the town of Caerleon.

We entered Caerleon with those ideas of respect and veneration which naturally arise in the mind on the recollection of past magnificence and fallen grandeur. Nor were these lessened by the striking contrast exhibited in its present appearance. This you will recollect was the celebrated *Isca Silurum*, the *Caer Legionis secundi* of Antoninus, and, during the success of the Roman arms in this country, their seat of government, in that division called *Britannia prima*. During that period this place was long the theatre for the display of Roman pomp and luxury, and, for its extent, considered inferior to none, as well as for the elegance of its buildings, the variety of its exhibitions, and the multifarious accommodations it afforded for gaiety and licentiousness. Gyraldus informs us, " That it was handsomely built by the

Romans, adorned with sumptuous edifices covered with gilded tiles, and stately towers surrounded with brick walls three miles in extent, had ancient temples, an amphitheatre, hot baths, subterraneous vaults for ice, hypocausts, reservoirs, aqueducts, and every thing that could add to the convenience or administer to the pleasure of the inhabitants." In confirmation of the monk's account, various antiquities discovered at different periods bear ample testimony. Earthen vessels curiously wrought, tessellated pavements, phiala, brass fibula, Roman bricks bearing the inscription Leg. II. Aug.; an altar to the emperor Aurelius Antoninus; another to Jupiter, under the appellation of Dolichenus, as the patron of iron mines; another supposed to be the goddess Astræa, and many other votive altars, monuments, statues, inscriptions, and Roman coins, from Cæsar to Valentinian inclusive; with most of the intermediate emperors. Some of the walls are still visible in several places, but scarcely sufficient to point out the original extent of the city. While the name of the parish, Llangattock juxta Caerleon, seems to favour the opinion that the old city was westward of the present town, perhaps most of the buildings on that side were extra mœnia, and formed suburbs, as appears from the direction of the western wall. Several bagnios and sudatories have been found, with pillars formed of circular bricks, not unlike those used by Palladio in some of the public structures at Venice. —Down Temple-street our Ciceroni shewed us what is vulgarly called Arthur's *round table*. But with a

sneer, that intimated he was not the dupe of such idle stories, and in an authoritative tone of voice, that demanded submission to all he was going to say, he observed, "Gentlemen, that is the spot where once stood a beautiful temple of Diana." This idea has been taken up by persons less expected to be imposed on than our guide. The only reason to support the conjecture is from an altar dug up, bearing an inscription to that goddess. If this were admissible, it would be as conclusive for Jupiter, whose altar was also discovered here. The opinion that the great goddess of the Ephesians had a temple dedicated to her in this place is taken from the inscription recorded in Camden; but the circular hollow in the meadow before us, appears to have been for such public exhibitions as are alluded to by Ovid, and which Juvenal observes were usual in his time :

" ————— Ipsa dierum
Festorum, herbosa colitus siquando theatro
Majestas," &c.

It is supposed to have been for the purpose of cock-fights; a sport introduced into Britain by the refined Romans. It would be natural for them, passionately fond of this amusement, to introduce it among their new colonists and allies. As this kind of exhibition was less cruel in its nature than the sanguinary shews of gladiators, though nearly allied to the more than brutal custom of baiting the wolf, the bear, and the bull. That some of these circular theatres were constructed for this purpose, no doubt can arise,* and this from its extent appears to have been intend-

ed for the larger exhibition. The baiting of wild animals, particularly the wolf and the bear, the boar and the bull, were favourite spectacles with the Romans; and it is reasonable to conclude, that the Britons, as imitators of their manners, would be followers in their amusements. In the early constitutions and laws of the Welsh, it is observable that out of *nine* ferocious beasts subject to *venation*, only three were allowed to be *baited*, and the bear was one. From the Britons the diversion was adopted by the Saxons, and the city of Norwich was bound by the tenure of its charter to furnish the king annully with one bear, and six dogs to bait it! So late as the reign of Elizabeth, *bear-baiting* was a fashionable and royal amusement; and the baiting of the bull still continues to be, though a barbarous, yet a favourite recreation among the lower class of people in this country. For such displays, edifices were erected of the most magnificent style of architecture; while others were constructed, like those in early Rome, of humbler materials, gravel and turf. Such was doubtless the present circular area, once ascending in several tiers of seats, and perhaps originally surrounded with a wall.

The most curious piece of Roman antiquity discovered here is part of a circular stone, sketched in Mr. Wyndham's Tour, flat on one side and convex

- * " A space belowe, to bayte both bull and beare,
For players to, great rounne and place at will,
And in the same a cockepit wondrous feare,
Besides where men may wrastle at ther fill.

CHURCHYARD.

on the other, twenty-seven inches in diameter. On the flat surface, in bas-relief, is represented a female figure in a sitting posture, with one hand inclined downward, and on the other, which is elevated, a dolphin sporting. A myrtle foliage surrounds the whole, as a border. The sculpture is particularly fine; and was intended, Mr. W. observes, for Venus, but he is at a loss respecting the *marine emblems*. The figure was meant for *Amphitrite*, of whom a dolphin was often characteristic, according to the lines of Augustinus in his explanation of this subject. See also Raspe on Gems, and Ovid. Fast. l. ii. v. 461.

A high mount of earth to the north of the present town, called the Kcep, is said once to have had a strong tower on its summit; and a variety of stones lying at its base strengthen the assertion. It was probably a Roman or British edifice. On a rising ground near half a mile from it is a large square encampment, and seven smaller ones in the vicinity. When the Britons had submitted to the Roman power, aided by their new masters, they turned their attention to arts and sciences; and christianity having been introduced by their means, religion became a general study. For it was the policy of the Romans to allow their colonists the free exercise of their customs, laws, and *religious rites*, as far as was consistent with the general interest of the empire. Under the auspices of Antoninus Caerleon, became the seat of learning and devotion. Three christian churches were quickly erected, and the gospel preached here by St. Julius and St. Ammon. To

each of these cotemporary saints and martyrs a church was dedicated. One accompanied by an order of nuns; another by a house of regular Cistercian canons; and a third was honoured with the metropolitan see of Wales. The remains of the monastery may still be traced in an old house inhabited by Miss Morgan, and the quadrangle round which the different buildings were arranged is still visible.

Here were buried the above mentioned holy men, who suffered martyrdom under the persecuting reign of the sanguinary Dioclesian. This was also the birth place of the great Amphibulus, tutor to the cotemporary martyr Stelban. It is an observation furnished us by the records of the church, that the blood of the martyrs appeared like the seed of saints; and its truth was confirmed by their increase after every persecution. After that time, notorious for its extent and cruelty, Caerleon increased in learning, consequence, and piety. When the Saxons invaded this country, the university was in so flourishing a condition, as to contain, among numerous other students, two hundred philosophers well skilled in geography and astronomy. (Vid. A. Elsebensis.) It has been observed that St. David, uncle to king Arthur, with the consent of his nephew, removed the metropolitan see to Menevia, since called after his name Ty Dewi or St. David's. But it is probable from history that St. David was bishop of Menevia prior to this event; for we are informed by Gyraldus, that Dubricius was archbishop of Caerleon, and re-

signed the metropolitan jurisdiction in favour of St. David; which was consequently transferred to Me-nevia. The virulent doctrines of Pelagius, a petulant Monk of Bangor, propagated by many of a similar disposition, began to spread their deleterious effects through the flock of Christ, both here and on the Continent; and their baleful effluvia, mingling with the waters of truth, were rapidly poisoning the streams of the gospel; and threatened to contaminate the fountain itself. To resist their pernicious influence, a synod of the clergy was held at Llan dewi brevi in Cardiganshire, where the British bishops, assisted by Germanus and Lupus, two Gaulish prelates, delegates to the synod, summoned the Here-siarch and his coadjutors to a public disputation, on the different points of heretical innovation; when St. David, it is reported, not only confuted the heretical doctrines by a strain of masterly reasoning and irresistible argument; but gave an additional sanction to the orthodox tenets by the performance of miracles. The Pelagian heresy was now likely to be extirpated; but as the strongest party had been worsted in argument, they would naturally endeavour to repair their disaster, and cover their disgrace by having recourse to the common defence of an untenable cause, revenge and persecution. Many of the orthodox and pious clergy, intimidated by the boldness and insolence of their adversaries, relinquished their stations and lived in retirement, where, unmolested, they might enjoy the comforts arising from the doctrines of Christianity. It was on this

occasion that Dubricius resigned the archiepiscopal chair to St. David, and advised him with the consent of his uncle to transfer the metropolitan seat from the corrupted and heretical city of Caerleon to the more peaceful and orthodox city of Menevia. Of this persecution and the retirement of Dubricius, notice is taken in a poem of Aneurin, a British bard of high antiquity.

I am apprehensive that I shall weary you with my delay at this place, but it would be impossible for a mind alive to recollection to pass Caerleon, without recurring to the days, when lived that celebrated subject of British prowess and valour *King Arthur*: who here kept his festive court, and whose memory is highly venerated, and eminently conspicuous in the traditions of the country. This was the theatre of his first achievements against the Saxons, and here, on his return from various successes, they were celebrated in songs of victory. I am aware that it has been fashionable to doubt, if not deny, whether ever such a hero existed: and where historic testimony is disregarded, a doubt will as easily obliterate a prince from the calendar, as a conjecture raise up another in his stead. The spirit of party was early discoverable in chronicles, as well as camps; and historians, like the schoolmen, appear to have delighted in traversing the *pro* and *con* with regard to the very plainest facts. While the Saxons endeavoured to disannul the records of the Welsh, the Welsh rejected the testimony of the Saxons: so that between them unexceptionable record was drawn to

46 *Doubts of the Authenticity of K. Arthur's Hist.*

a very slender thread; and the pages of history reduced to a *carte blanche*, in which every sceptical writer might have sufficient room to state his objections, and transcribe his doubts. Lord Lyttelton, following the historic scepticism of Milton, appears to have done all in his power to erase the name of this noble Briton from the annals of fame. These two historians of opposite principles, though united on this occasion, seem to have been determined to establish a new series of history. For this purpose they proceed in a retrograde road to every species of probable evidence, as contained in British, Irish, Scottish, or even English history. It might flatter the vanity of the English, at the expense of the Welsh; and too much could not be bestowed on such a subject. For the Welsh had offended Milton by their unshaken loyalty to the unfortunate and injured Charles. And the historian of the reign of Henry the II. consulted only one side of the question, being ignorant of the language and history of the Welsh. His admiration of Saxon writers must consequently have given a considerable bias to the historic pen.* It is but just, however, to observe,

* It is no new thing for facts to be buried or strongly misstated in the prejudice of the historian, or distorted in their features by the eloquence of diction. Strabo relates a case in point among the Grecians. Lysimachus had been an attendant upon Alexander during the whole series of his conquests in Asia: there had been nothing of moment transacted in the success of which he had not partaken. Yet even in his days, when he was king of Thrace, the accounts of those great actions had been so misrepresented, that when a history of them had been read in his presence, they seemed quite new to him. It is all

Authenticity of King Arthur's Hist. supported. 47

that all that could be done was done on this occasion, and that they might adopt the language of Æneas over fallen Troy :

“ Sat patriæ Priamoque datum si Pergama dextrâ
Defendi possent, etiam hac defensa fuissent.”

But facts should not thus be tamely given up without stronger objections. Let us examine their validity.

After the relinquishment of this island by the Romans, the Britons, often disunited among themselves, and accustomed to depend upon the Roman military establishment for their protection, found themselves invaded in different quarters by numerous warlike hordes, that issued from the north of Europe, whose trade was war and their object plunder. However, the Britons in this distress had recourse to the usual plan in cases of danger, agreeably to their primitive constitution: that of electing some warlike prince as Pendragon or king of all Britain, under whom they might unite in their common defence. On the death of Vortigern, Ambrosius was called to the pendragonate by a general synod. About this time Arthur was born at Tindagel in Cornwall: the son of Uther of the *Cinethian* line of British princes; and on the demise of his father and his elder brother

very fine, says the prince, but where was I when all this happened? There was a series of events exhibited in a way, in which the principal actor and the person most interested was the least acquainted.

Indeed the Welsh may apply to the English relators what Juvenal observed of Greece, so far as respects them :

————— “ quicquid Anglia mendax
Audet in Historia.”—

48 *Authenticity of King Arthur's Hist. supported.*

Ambrosius, was crowned Pendragon by Dubricius bishop of Llandaff. Others make him the son of Narthaloed, and others of Gulois, a king of Cornwall. But the obscurity that thus clouds his descent does not invalidate the truth of his existence. For after the death of Uther and Ambrosius, we find in the Saxon chronicles an account of the conflict being maintained by the Britons under a British prince of great courage named Natan. The death of Natan is fixed by these chronicles A. D. 508, and the commencement of Arthur's reign is stated in the Welsh annals A. D. 514. At this period the annals mention him as only king of Cornwall, while contemporary history considers him as king of all Britain. These accounts are not irreconcilable, if we have recourse to the armed confederacy then existing among the British princes, that either by hereditary right, by the death of Natan, or by election on account of superior valour, he was raised to the pendragonate or supremacy of the empire.*

He might be called *Nawddliwed*, this meaning in old British, according to Usher, the same with *Naw-*

* The government of the Britons appears to have remained the same, subsequent to the departure of the Romans, as it was prior to their invasion of the country. The different princes being subordinate to one of their number as chief, called *Pendragon*, i. e. field-marshal. Thus Vortigern, Uther, Ambrosius, and Arthur were at the head of the British confederacy, as Cassibelan and Caractacus were at an earlier epoch of British history: this continued for several centuries afterwards, and was faintly visible in the authority exercised by the last Llewelyn, till the final extinction of Welsh independence.

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allied in Cornish, i. e. the people's protector; and was the Northalaed of the Saxon annals. Much stress has been laid on his not being mentioned by Bede and Gildas. As for the former, it was natural to suppose he would endeavour to gloss over names and facts which had thrown such disgrace upon the Saxon arms, and the consequences of which were so degrading to his countrymen. The latter had a violent quarrel with the hero in question, yet he acknowledges that he himself was born on the day the battle of Badon was fought, in which Arthur is supposed to have acted so distinguished a part: and there are persons who suppose, that *he* alludes to him under the name of Ursus. However he is mentioned by the bards Taliesin, Merlin, and Lywarch Hên; two of which, if not the *third*, were his contemporaries. (Vid. their works.) If any further evidence were necessary the *proverbs of the country* might be adduced; and which, in traditional information, strongly corroborate the opinion that the person existed to whom they refer. Among many others, the following are general in the principality: "Arthur was not, but whilst he was;" spoken of a great family reduced to indigence. "King Arthur did not violate the refuge of a woman;" intimating that he left her the free use of her tongue. But we shall find the strongest testimony in the very *objections* themselves.

"It is pretended," says Lyttelton, after assuming the non-existence of Arthur, "indeed, that the controversy was decided in Henry II's time, by the

50 *Authenticity of King Arthur's Hist. supported.*

body being found between two ancient pyramids, in the abbey of Glastonbury, in a search that was made for it by order of that king; who had heard from a Welsh bard, that by digging there to the depth of fifteen feet, they would find it. Gyraldus affirms that he saw it himself; but then he says, the bones were those of a giant; and in this description the other writers of the age, who mention this discovery, concur. Usher gives us a charter of King Henry II. (De Brit. Eccles. primord.) in which that prince confirms to the abbey church of Glastonbury all privileges granted to it by his royal predecessors, among whom he reckons *Arthur*; and says that several charters had been brought and read before him. But the forgery of churchmen in favour of abbeys and churches was a common practice in those days. It seems to me that all the evidence of *Arthur's* existence, on which any stress can be laid, is in the language of the Welsh bards, who, it is supposed, had some foundation of truth for the many tales they recounted about him and his knights; as the old French romancers had for those they told about *Charlemagne* and his peers: though for the most part fabulous. But of the real existence and acts of the illustrious emperor, we have many certain proofs in the writings of *Eginhartus*, one of his ministers; and other monuments and authentic records of those times in which he lived, all which is wanting with regard to the evidence and acts of the supposed British prince." (Vid. life of Hen. II.)

I have thus stated the objections *in their full extent*,

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to shew that the very objections give the most presumptive if not positive evidence, in addition to the testimonies of history already adduced, of the point at issue; the existence of the British chieftain. If a body were now to be found interred, after the royal manner of the times, in a place of eminence as a sacred repository, and at a depth where it may justly supposed to have lain for ages, and an inscription in a language used by princes and great people of that period, purporting the inclosed corpse to be the body of such a king, a king mentioned in history to have reigned in the country at the period when such a corpse might have been supposed to have been interred;—and an account, in cotemporary writers, that the spot in question was the place of his interment—what would be the proper inference? but that such a person certainly *once existed*. The information of Gyraldus, that the bones were of an enormous size, does not in the least militate against the truth of his relation. For he only asserts, that *the shin bone, set by the side of a tall man, came three inches above his knee; which would make him to be about seven feet high*. Many persons have been recorded as being larger than this, and we have seen in these effeminate days, men *eight* and even *nine* feet high. *Besides, the very noticing the circumstance**

* It has been an objection started by heathen and amplified by infidel writers, against the divine authority of the Scriptures, that Goliath of Gath is said to have been upwards of *six cubits high*. But it is well known that extraordinary stature has been sometimes peculiar to nations and families; and though *Patagonia* be *distant*, yet *Scotland* is near; and Goliath was

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proves, that it was at the time considered as an extraordinary size. But further, suppose that among the records kept in the royal chancery of any kingdom, the most sacred and inviolable dépôt of writings that can be conceived, were to be discovered a *charter* containing grants and privileges to this very church and abbey, such a king had chosen for his burial place, signed with his name, bearing his seal, and both the date and language corresponding exactly with the time in which he was supposed to have lived; and this to have been registered among other subsequent charters:—would it not be justly considered as a collateral proof of the existence of such a prince? The observation that such charters are frequently *forged*, as no instance is adduced of such forgery, appears only a mean subterfuge, equally as void of foundation as it is wanting in liberality; and churchmen may compliment the historian on the *indirect attack* upon their moral honesty.

Suppose yet further, that this great personage and his exploits were not only mentioned by immediate and successive historians, but also celebrated in the heroic poems of cotemporary bards, and ranked among “the heroes that fought on the plains of

descended from the race of the *Hanakins*. If dissatisfied with this testimony, take that of *heathens themselves*, sufficient of which may be found in G. Schotti *Physica Curiosa*, 1. iii. c. 8 —A. D. 1086. The tomb of Walwey, king Arthur's sister's son, was discovered in Rôs, near the sea shore, and whose body was supposed to be in length near *fourteen feet*. This was considered a prodigy, and somewhat may be allowed for surprize and haste.

Morgannock, whose spears glittered in the foaming ocean ;" would it not evidently appear that a person of that name and description once existed, though the colouring might be higher than is usually allowable in prose ? However, like the British bards, and the *troubadours* among the Franks, a similarity by no means apparent, yet according to *the objector* their fabulous and over-strained details did not render the existence of the monarch and his peers *even dubious*. "*But then we have certain proofs* in the writings of Eginhartus." And have we not equally so respecting *Arthur* and his knights in authors of as undoubted veracity ; and other authentic documents. For what more authentic than a charter left by the monarch himself, preserved among the most important records in the archives of the nation, and *recognised* as authentic by those who lived in succeeding centuries ; and *whose honour and interest would have dictated the obliteration of the remotest traces of the British prince ?* What records more authentic than the ancient chronicles of events in Britain, in which are recorded the transactions of the period in question, at the very time they took place ? What record more authentic than the great royal *genealogicon* of the Welsh princes ; in which their pedigree and lineage are accurately traced and recorded, and where Arthur is placed as *Pendragon* at the very period assigned by other documents and subsequent historians ; especially if it be remembered that the Welsh were jealously tenacious of their pedigrees ; that the utmost care was taken to preserve them un-

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corrupt; and that in the houses of the great, heralds were appointed to prevent interpolation or erasure, faithfully to continue the register for the use of the descendants, and to ascertain any doubts that might arise respecting collateral branches of the family? Such indeed was the authenticity of *this record*, that for centuries an appeal to it was considered as *final in all courts of law*, and it was upon this very authority that *Henry VII. preferred his claim to the crown*; and by an appeal to this evidence, established to the public satisfaction his right to wield the sceptre after he had ascended the throne of England.

Thus it is evident we must not only deny the most positive historic testimony, cast away the most authentic records, and forego evidence that has always been admissible for ascertaining property; or admit that such a prince existed as Arthur; that he was the *Pendragon* or supreme potentate in Britain; and that he performed such prodigies of valour, and evinced such prowess in war against the Saxons, as to ensure to him a most conspicuous niche in the temple of Fame, and rank him high among the heroes of antiquity.

It would be superfluous to add the testimony arising from various writers, as Gyraldus, Matthew of Westminster, Geoffry of Monmouth, Fabian, Gale, W. Llwyd, Rowland, Evans, and many others, some of whom had much greater opportunities of investigating the truth of history; some of whom lived much nearer the period; and who had access to *MSS.* since lost; and many of whom have shewn

themselves as zealous to detect errors as the objectors, and whose acuteness and critical skill in the language and antiquities of their country afford reason to conclude they did not admit the relations respecting Arthur, but upon the most undeniable evidence of their authenticity. I will only add the acknowledgement of the objector himself:—"Yet the faith of the English, as well as the Welsh in Arthur's exploit, was so great during the age of which I write, that the sword supposed to have been his was presented, A. D. 1190, to Trancred King of Sicily, by Richard King of England, as a valuable gift. The swords of heroes in those days had names given them, and this was called *Caliburn*."

This sword was probably bestowed upon him, when he was invested with the Pendragonate. At this period unable to defend themselves against the Saxons, which were daily pouring in, the Britons solicited assistance from the Romans. But the Romans were too much occupied with the convulsions at home, to attend to their colonists abroad, and the envoys that brought the unwelcome intelligence, were received by King Arthur at his court of Caerleon—(vide *MS. Llandaff*.) Stimulated by the refusal, and the desperate situation of his country, Arthur formed bold and prompt resolutions, and seconded by intrepid bravery of the confederate princes, and their contingencies, he engaged the Saxons with invincible ardour; obtained victory after victory, pursued the invaders to the remotest corners of the island, and from the first engagement near *Caerleon*,

to the affair of Badon Hill near Bath, returned *conqueror from twelve pitched and hard fought battles*, which, in allusion to antiquity, are styled by Nennius the *twelve labours of the British Hercules*. Wearied at length with incessant warfare, and the distractions of family affairs preying upon his mind, his declining life became as uncomfortable as the commencement of it had been auspicious and happy. His power and successes on the continent have been emblazoned in romantic story; but he appears through the whole of his reign to have been too much occupied to have had leisure even to glance at the affairs of other nations; for the various campaigns of the west and the east, the north and the south, appear to have been amply sufficient to engage both his time and his abilities; and to constitute him an extraordinary child of glory. It is related that Guinevere his queen was far from being a sister of Penelope; and that she took advantages of his frequent absence in military expeditions to sacrifice to unlawful pleasure, and dishonour his bed! She had an intrigue with a chieftain of the name of Melvas, according to Gildas, and that she attached herself to Mordred the nephew of her husband, and eloped with him among the Saxons, according to Geoffrey.

Arthur had now to engage in the most poignant of all quarrels, and in a warfare of all others considered as the most inglorious in the estimation of the world. Mordred and the infamous Guinevere had joined the Saxons, and under their protection hoped to pursue with impunity their illicit schemes. But

Arthur marched against the combined forces, overcame them in the marshes of the Axe, near Glastonbury; and after taking by storm the city, garrisoned by the Saxons, revenged himself on the perfidious nephew, and re-possessioned himself of his faithless queen. Caradoc observes that she was restored rather by the intreaties and remonstrances of her relation Gildas than the terrors of the British arms. It is however certain that Arthur and Mordred frequently contended, that the latter was slain at the battle of Camblan in Cornwall, and the former was fatally wounded at the same place, and was afterwards interred in the cemetery of Glastonbury, A. D. 542, and near the same spot were deposited the remains of his incontinent queen. The body was found A. D. 1189, as before observed, and at the depth of several feet from the surface was discovered a broad flat stone, with a leaden cross inlaid, bearing this inscription,

Hic jacet sepultus inclytus Rex Arturius,

In insula Avulonia.

The cross and inscription were preserved in the re-vestor of the church, till the suppression of the Abbey under Henry VIII.—(vide Stowe.)

After trespassing upon your patience thus long respecting a point of history, I would endeavour to amuse you by a brief account of the *round table*, its equal knights, and the rules laid down for its etiquette; a subject which gave rise to the institutions, laws, and feats of tilts, tournaments, and chivalry; which occupied the attention of a great part of Europe

during the middle and lower ages. But this would protract my stay too long ; I will therefore only observe, that after the death of Arthur, Caerleon dwindled both in its piety and consequence, and was only considered of importance as a barrier post, during the unavailing struggles of the Welsh for independence. In which period it frequently experienced all the horrors of sacking and pillage, so often attendant on sieges in those sanguinary ages.

The castle,* whose ruins stand near the river, appears to have been a British fortress, probably erected about the time of the Norman invasion. We, however, do not hear of it till 1171, when Henry took the town, dispossessing Jorwerth-ap-Owen, lord of Gwent. In 1173, after a noble stand, it was retaken by Owen, and the castle given up to the Welsh in exchange for the prisoners taken in the town. The following year it was recovered for the king by a large confederate army of English and Normans ; but afterwards restored to Owen, upon his doing homage and swearing fealty to the king at Gloucester, on the instance of Rhys, prince of South Wales. It was again taken by William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, 1218. On the death of the Earl it was retaken, after a most desperate resistance, by Llewelyn-ap-Jorwerth, and retained by his descendants till the time of Edward I. (Vide Powel.)

The present town consists of two or three small streets, and many of the houses in a state of dilapi-

* This has been confounded with the more modern edifice of Newport. *Vide Second Walk in Wales.*

dation. The most decent building we observed is a charity school, for maintaining and educating thirty poor boys, and twenty poor girls, till they attain the age of fourteen, when they are apprenticed with a bounty of seven pounds to the former, and four for the latter. They are clothed in a dress of blue cloth, with a badge of white, containing the initials C. W. alluding to the founder; who, an inscription in front of the building informs you, was Charles Williams, Esq. a native of the town. The spirit of the place seems in unison with its appearance; being chiefly inhabited by a poor, indolent set of people; alike unaffected by the greatness of their past, as inattentive to the advantages of their present condition.

Ruminating on the extent and consequence of this once celebrated city. Comparing it with its present appearance of indigence and dilapidation, I fell into a reverie on the fate of cities, the downfall of empires, and the vanity of man! Alas! said I, Is this the once far famed Isca Silurum of the Romans? The station of the *Invincible Legion*, *Augusta Secunda*? The theatre on which you exhibited your superiority in arts and sciences to the rude Britons? The seat of consular government? The residence of a *Vicegerent of the mighty Roman empire*? The resort of wealth, greatness, luxury, and fashion, reduced to this miserable village of ragged houses and mouldering walls*, with scarce a vestige left to shew its

* Amid the ruins grow in abundance artemisia, absinthium, tanacetum vulgare, antirrhinum monspessularium, arenaria tennifolia; near, vicia sylvatica, and lichen pustulatus.

former splendour, or evince a pre-eminence over the villages in its vicinity!

The decline and fall of empires, and the destruction of cities, are calculated to convince us of the transitory nature of what are esteemed the most durable objects here, and to give us just notions of the present and a future state of existence; to impress the mind with the folly of human pride, and the vanity of earthly greatness, and what little value should be stamped on the short-lived breath of fame. Sojourners here for a short and uncertain period, if we are desirous of uninterrupted happiness, or emulous of lasting fame, we must build for eternity; and say with the poet, but with more modesty, and better hopes,

“ Exegi monumentum ære perennius
Regalique situ Pyramidum altius,
Quod non Imber edax, non Aquilo impotens
Possit diruere; aut innumerabilis
Annorum series et fuga Temporum.” HOR.

I am Yours S. E.

LETTER III.

DEAR SIR,

ASCENDING the Gam to the north of Caerleon, nearly the whole county of Monmouth lay stretched like a map before us. The hill we now stood upon forms part of the mountainous ridge, running through the centre of the county in

an irregular direction towards another chain of mountains that intersects the whole of Brecknockshire; forming by constant interruptions a succession of well wooded luxuriant vales. Between the elevations of the Gam and the Penca-mawr, in a most romantic bottom, flows in varied, and oft in boisterous beauty, the winding Uske. The lofty *Devandon* excluded the Wye from our view, and left her humble rival to display her peculiar charms of picturesque beauty. The Uske, by the shorter distance from its source to its mouth, rising near Trecastle and flowing into the sea near Gold Cliff, cannot be expected to equal the Wye in the variety of its attendant scenery; yet it teems with a number of views that charm, and scenes that please. It rapidly passes from a wild mountain torrent into a widely-flowing tide river; and though the descent from the heights into the vale is often sudden, yet it is seldom so abrupt, as not to leave some extent of rich pastures on its margin. And this remarkable characteristic attends it, from its source through greater part of its course; which materially softens the rudeness of the surrounding heights, and gives a fine effect to its well wooded outline: and while the rapidity of the current bespeaks its alpine origin, the verdure of the adjoining pasture, abounding with numerous herds and flocks, give an additional zest to its delicious and luxuriant scenery. Hanging woods with cottages embosomed in their foliage, interesting by their modesty and concealment, often finely contrasted with

elegant mansions, tend to heighten the effect. While the varied woods, interchanging from groups of trees to humble bushes, from the soft tints of incipient vegetation, to the strong colouring of denser foliage, aided by the variety of outline formed by the curvature of the river; are circumstances which irresistibly engage the fancy, and divert the mind to the operations of nature, as soothing to our feelings, as they are grateful to the eye. Ascending the Table Land to the left, the extensive prospect forms a sublime contrast to the tranquillity of the subjacent vale.

To the west the view is circumscribed by the range of the Pontypoole Hills, terminating in the Blorange, Skyryd vawr, Tom Balan, the Sugar Loaf, and Peny vale; whose varied summits are seen to great advantage, like so many advanced posts before the broad expanse of the South Wales barrier, termed the Black Mountains: and the traveller who has visited the Alps, might here imagine himself in the vicinity of Mount Brennus, and the two St. Bernards. To the north east, the heights of the *Devandon* and *Chepstow Park*, with the intermediate vales full of rich farms, villages, castles, and towns. To the east, the extensive moor of Caldecot, the Severn, the Denny, King Road, Bristol Channel, steep and flat Holmes, the extensive shores of Somerset and Devon, stretching away to the south, till the eye is lost in the distant ocean, On a part of this ridge, overlooking the elegant mansion of Sir Robert Salisbury, stands the small, but conspi-

cuous edifice of *Christ Church*, curious for being the place of an extraordinary sort of superstitious pilgrimage. In the middle of the chancel is a large flat stone, said to cover the body of a very eminent saint, whose name is lost in oblivion. Figures of a man and woman may be traced, and round the margin this inscription; "Hic jacent Johannes Colmar et Isabella uxor ejus, qui obierunt A. D. 1376, quum aiabus ppicietur Deus! Amen." Upon this stone, on the Wednesday eve before Trinity Sunday, annually, are brought men, women, and children, who are weak or otherwise disordered in their limbs, from distant parts, to lie from sun setting till sun rising, the parish clerk attending them during the night with candles. This year there had been very few patients, but in some, the number produces a considerable emolument; as all leave a gratuity for the sanative privilege. While conjecturing that this custom must have been more ancient than the date on the stone, I asked if the practice was generally efficacious? To which our informant modestly replied, that *some grew better after* and some worse, and supposed the difference must arise from the different degrees of faith.

Descending from this envied elevation, we rambled down the vale, till we imperceptibly reached the small town of Newport, which we entered by a handsome stone bridge of five arches, now completed under the direction of a son of the architect of Ponty prydd. It was built by contract for 10,165*l*. and the money raised by shares or debentures of

100l. each, under the patriotic auspices of Sir Robert Salisbury. When we formerly passed this way, the river was bestrid by a long narrow wooden bridge, with a sliding floor, like the one at Caerleon. And such was the decayed state of the timber, that for a long time previous to its being taken down, carriages could not venture over; and it was discovered, that it was only just taken down in time to prevent the most serious consequences. We may congratulate the public therefore, on an improvement, that surpasses all that have been made for years, on this now greatly frequented road. On passing, we smiled at the wonderful story told of a Mrs. Williams, who during a dark night, took a flying leap at Caerleon on a small plank; stemming the boisterous wave, and steering her course, astride the plank, through the winding course of the river: lighting herself with a small candle and lantern fortunately held in her hand! Shooting the gulf at this place with unexampled dexterity, and after putting the fishermen into a panic, in the shape of a ghost, at the embouchure of the river; had the good fortune to bring them to their senses, before the tide, rapidly ebbing, could waft her to the ocean: and engaging their attention by her cries, obtained a rescue from this perilous and involuntary adventure!" (Vid. Walk in Wales, &c.) I confess, I know not which to admire most, the ingenuity of the inventor of this story, or the credulity of those who have so gravely related it. But this is a wondrous age: while real miracles are rejected, even upon divine testimony, the most ex-

travagant tales of fiction are greedily swallowed, and as easily digested.

The approach to the town exhibits almost a perfect view of its ancient castle, standing close on the western banks of the Uske. It has been of greater extent, and was built to secure the passage over the river for the English troops. It is little more towards the town than a strong plain wall, void of buttress, while, towards the water, three round towers flank its eastern front. Some of the windows are still perfect, and highly decorated. It is supposed to have been built by Fitzwarren, as it was garrisoned by the English under the name of *the new castle on the Uske*, A. D. 1172. It was in possession of the Clares, from whom it descended in the female line to Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife, and afterwards formed part of the extensive domains of the younger Spenser, who garrisoned it for King Edward the II. but was soon after taken by the confederate barons. It is however most notorious for the dastardly conduct of its garrison, in the time of Henry II. On his return from the continent, after having before deprived Jorwerth-ap-Owen of his lawful possessions, he found him now so formidable as to be under the necessity of negotiating a peace with the prince he had so lately dethroned. To effect this, he sent a safe passage to Jorwerth and his sons, to meet him at a conference upon the borders. Informed that Owen the eldest son of Jorwerth was on the road to meet his father, the English garrison in Newport sallied forth, and murdered the young

and valiant chieftain, only attended by a few servants, as he was going to sign *a treaty of peace with their sovereign*. If, after what had passed between the Welsh princes and the English monarch, Henry had any previous knowledge of this treacherous transaction; or if, as has been stated, it was done at his instigation and by his command; it not only marks a cruel and mistaken policy for the subjugation of the Welsh, but leaves an indelible stain upon the moral character of Henry, which no state logic could justify, no time efface. What might have been foreseen instantly took place, when the poignant tale of grief reached the ears of Jorwerth, he broke off the conference, returned with his younger son Howel, to lay before his subjects and adherents the irreparable injury he had sustained. The Welsh, fired at the base perfidy of the English, rallied round his standard; and breathing revenge and retaliation, entered the marches, and with fire and sword carried devastation and dismay to the banks of the Severn and the Wye; to the gates of Hereford and Gloucester. By this impolitic step, Henry effectually transformed a subject into a most formidable antagonist; and was compelled to restore to him both his territory and diadem. (Vid. Powel.)

Newport, which arose out of the ruins of Caerleon, is situate about three miles above the mouth of the river; which here forms a tolerable port. But little business is done, though large ships might come up to the bridge, the tide flowing often fifty feet. It carries on a small trade in coals, which abound in

its vicinity, so as to compose the greater part of the pebbles in the river, called Bolders, which are carried to Bristol, and sold at a high price, as being rubbly, and making a pleasanter fire for parlour use, than the coals of Kingswood and Nailsea. A canal extending to Brecknock has contributed in a small degree to increase the trade of the port. The church stands at the end of the town, on a commanding eminence, and is visited for the extensive view attainable from the church-yard. Besides this, Newport has little to boast, consisting only of one long street of indifferent houses, and owes the principal part of its support to being a thoroughfare.

It is called, by Baxter, *Nova Porta*, by Gyraldus, *Novus Burghus*, and was evidently intended as a check on the Welsh, while they possessed the strong hold of Caerleon.

Under the guidance of the ever curious and intelligent monk, we visited a spot in this neighbourhood, where through some marshy ground flows a small stream, famed for a ford called *Ryd pen karn*; which was considered so difficult, as to be passable but at certain seasons, and by experienced people. Henry II. having by chance or necessity passed this ford with part of his army, the Welsh, constantly the slaves of superstition and the dupes of ancient prophecies, were by this trivial circumstance completely discouraged; and from that moment looked upon their fortune as decided by fate. Because one of Merlin's oracles had prognosticated, that whenever a strong prince, with fair hair and a freckled

face, (as Henry had) should pass that ford, the British forces should be completely vanquished.

Beneath this the river forms an æstuary near a mile wide. Two miles to the east of which is the village of *Goldcliff*; where are the ruins of an ancient priory, founded by the ancestors of the Chandois family, of the order termed Alien Priors.* It is so called, from a remarkable cliff, celebrated by Gyraldus for the golden colour of its rocks. "Nor can he think that nature has bestowed this colour on the stones in vain; or that it would be found a mere flower devoid of fruit, should some skilful artist investigate the veins and bowels of this rock." The monk, though not a mineralogist, and living in an age when the invaluable science of chemistry was but little understood, was not very wrong in his *conclusive conjecture*. This is a considerable elevation, rising between the mouth of the Uske, and a small stream called Goldcliff Pill, consisting of a considerable extent of *pyritous substances* in a calcareous matrix, covered with a sulphureous crust called *mundic*, or marcasite; and containing sulphur combined with iron, accompanied with iron ore: and is the commencement of a line on this side the water, running from east to west, worked at Myrthir, Aberdan, Vurtag, Pontypool, *Mynydd cyver* in Caermarthenshire; and probably extending to the

* Robert de Chandois 1113 founded the church of St. Mary Magdalene, endowed it with lands, and by the persuasion of Henry I. annexed it to the abbey of Bec in Normandy: whence were conveyed to this a prior and twelve monks.

sea. When the sun shines, these substances put on a brilliancy like gold. As mineralogists have attended to the external figure or internal constitution, they have distinguished it by different names, as copperas stone, brass lumps, brass balls, horse gold, or marcasites. This pyritous substance is the beautiful gold coloured efflorescence observable on canal coal. Some coal contains such a quantity, as to become an object to the proprietors to have it separated, both for the amelioration of the coal, and the purposes of making iron. It is a disagreeable companion in mines, for from its prodigiously inflammable quality, it frequently explodes with great combustion and considerable disaster. (Vid. Henckel.) As nature points out continual improvements to excite the ingenuity and repay the industry of man, might she not be profitably attended here? I have found *cubes* of this substance, that were malleable; and probably by a more accurate combination and closer union, a semi-metal might be formed highly useful in the arts, as we know that iron united with another *inflammable substance*, has furnished us with the most valuable in our catalogue, *steel*. * Returning to Newport we passed the park of Tredeguar

* When I view the numerous substances taking a mineral appearance, which when subjected to heat are reduced to sulphur, I cannot but think by some other process a malleable metal might be extracted: or they might be made subservient to the amelioration or increase of other metals, as lead or copper, &c. They were created for some use; and it is well known what an excellent metal copper produces, united with calamine, a substance of itself of no apparent use.

through which flows the river Ebwith, a seat of Sir Charles Gould Morgan. Though a large mansion, it appears to a great disadvantage, being situate on a flat lawn to the left of the road, and is disfigured by a range of stables and other offices in front. The portion of the park on the right hand side of the road is more elevated, and being well wooded and stocked with deer, forms a handsome contrast.

Beneath the hills that veil Caerphilly from the view is Rupperah, placed on a sylvan eminence; another seat of the family, more modern in its style and decorations, and assuming a superiority of appearance to most other seats in the county of Monmouth: the prospect from its terrace is interestingly grand. Beneath is an old seat of the family of Kemys, called *Cefn Mably*. To the north of Rupperah is a hill named *Cefn Pwllddu*, an old lead mine, supposed to have been worked by the Romans, as numerous coins have been found in and near it, some of which are preserved by the Morgan family.

Crossing the Rhymney *, anciently the line of demarcation between Morgannoc and Gwentland, and now the boundary between the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan, we entered the county town of Caerdiff—probably of Roman origin, as the word *Caer* seems to indicate; a fortified town on the River Taaffe. This was the residence of the Roman Britons, protected by the Roman fortifications still visible to the west of the town. It is

* On its banks grow abundance of the *gnaphalium mar-
garitaceum*.

situate on a flat, through which the river, rushing wildly from the mountains, passes under a handsome stone bridge of five arches, built by Parry, 1796.

This is, for Wales, a handsome town, consisting of several spacious streets of decent houses, well pitched and paved. The inns are good, and the inhabitants civil. It had formerly two parish churches, one of which was undermined and thrown down by the inundations of the river, which still occasionally repeats its depredations. The high tower of the present church, it is said, was built at the latter end of the reign of Edward the Third. If this be accurate, it is a confirmation of the idea suggested, that the grand hall in Caerphilly castle was built at the same period. It is light of appearance, and of elegant workmanship : having open corners and lantern pinnacles. Here were formerly four religious houses. A benedictine priory, and *houses of black, grey, and white friars*. Those of black and white friars were founded by Robert earl of Gloucester, and continued till the dissolution under Henry the VIII. (Vid. Dugdale.) A few remains of the white friars are still to be seen, and the ruins of the black friars are near the eastern wall and gateway, and furnish habitations for a few poor fishermen.

The assizes are regularly held here, and the beauty and brilliancy of the neighbourhood are sometimes displayed at its concerts and assemblies.

The iron works of the adjacent country have greatly added to the consequence of this place. By an act which passed in 1790, a canal was cut from

Penarth Point to the Cyfartha iron works, near Myrthir Tydvil; an extent of twenty-five miles, which has greatly facilitated the means of conveying so ponderous an article of commerce to a market. And by a subsequent act, a branch has been extended to other works at Aberdave; while the division of the line below the town has been widened and deepened, so as to admit brigs and other vessels of two hundred tons burthen up to the quay. The intention was, that it should be capacious enough to admit vessels of *five hundred tons*, and render it a port of consequence in the shipping trade; but by an oversight in schemes of this sort, more common than accountable, the receiving basin and quays were formed on too small a scale. The port therefore still continues at the mouth of the river, where vessels ride at safe anchor, sheltered by the woodland of Penarth, a small promontory with projecting cliffs, consisting of a hard and very compact limestone, though it contains many fossil marine bodies, especially the *Gryphites oyster*. From its colour and quality it is termed *Blue Lias* or *Lion*, probably from *leiner* to bind, having been found to set before any other lime under water; growing harder and harder with time. This is a commencement of a line, which skirting along the coast of Glamorgan, passes through Caermarthenshire and Pembroke, nearly in a westerly direction, appearing again at the sea near St. David's Head; and preserving this valuable property through the whole extent.

The town was formerly surrounded with walls,

flanked with watch-towers, one thousand two hundred and eighty paces in circumference, and had gates at the four cardinal points, some traces of which are visible. Part of its magnificent castle is still standing, said originally to have covered eight acres of ground. It was built by the Conqueror Fitzhamon, after he had possessed himself of the country of Morgannoc, 1090; residing and holding here his chancery and exchequer courts. He was descended from Hamon *Dentatus*, so called because born with teeth, Earl of Sevigne and Granville, in Normandy, nearly related to William the Bastard. His three sons, Robert Fitzhamon, Richard de Granville, and the younger Hamon, accompanied William to England. Robert became Prince of Glamorgan and Earl of Gloucester. He was wounded at the siege of Falaise in Normandy, and died A. D. 1107, leaving only female issue four daughters, two of whom took the veil: Mabel, the eldest, was married to Robert, natural son of Henry I. who became Earl of Gloucester in right of his wife; and Amis was married to the Earl of Bretagne. The second brother succeeded as Earl of Granville and Sevigne; what became of the younger, Hamon, we have no account. (Vide Dugdale's Baron.)

The history of Fitzhamon's invasion, though it has been given by others, is not generally known, nor very accurately described.

At the latter end of the eleventh century an incident happened, says the historian, springing from a trivial occurrence, which produced a most important

and decisive change in the affairs of South Wales; and doubtless accelerated the final overthrow of Cambria. Llewelyn and Eineon, chieftains of eminence, sons of the lord of Pembroke, rose in rebellion against Rhys-ap-Tewdwr, their lawful sovereign; and drew into their treasonable designs Gryffydd-ap-Meredydd, another chieftain of the country. Having joined their forces, they marched against Rhys, then seated at Llandudock, in the county of Pembroke; where an action ensued, in which the rebels were defeated, and the traitor Gryffydd put to death; the other two escaping by flight. Eineon, rendered desperate by this event, and fearful of trusting his kindred, associated with Jestyn-ap-Gwrgiant, Lord of Glamorgan, whose interest was similar, because his situation was the same; he being in arms against his sovereign, Rhys. To bind themselves more closely together, it was stipulated, that Eineon should marry the daughter of Jestyn, on the condition that he procured a body of Normans to assist in their projected enterprize. He had served in the English armies, and, consequently, had formed an acquaintance with the Norman nobility, serving at the same time under the English standard. Influenced by these powerful motives, Eineon hastened into England.

The design was agreeable to the enterprising spirit of the age. The English, from the first, had always had recourse to that maxim of Machiavelian policy, "Divide et impera," in their various attempts to subjugate the Welsh. And at this time

the treason of two men coinciding with the views of Rufus, infused a fatal poison into the bosom of their country.*

Robert Fitzhamon, now a Baron of the realm, and gentleman of the king's privy bed-chamber, was appointed to furnish the required assistance. For this purpose he selected twelve knights, commanding distinct bodies of chosen troops, to serve under him; with the promise of being liberally rewarded. These united auxiliaries landed on the coast of Glamorgan, and were honourably received by Jestyn; and joining those of the two Welsh chieftains, laid waste the territories of *Rhys-ap-Tewdwr*, then ninety years old. But with a spirit and activity uncommon at such an advanced age, he took the field, and in person endeavoured to repel the unjustifiable aggressors. The armies met upon the Black Mountains, and after a severe and bloody conflict, the royal army was vanquished, and himself slain in the contest. After whose death, betrayed by the vices of its own princes, and torn in pieces by internal divisions and the attacks of foreign adventurers, it quickly lost its ancient importance, and gradually fell into irrecoverable decay.

* "Jestyn-ap-Gwrgaint, Lord of Glamorgan, was of the *fourth* royal tribe. He descended in the twenty-ninth generation from the great *Caractacus*; a sorry slip from such a noble stock. The Silurian prince had defended his country from foreign enemies; his descendants introduced them to enslave it. Fitzhamon divided his territory among his twelve knights, and Jestyn fell a just sacrifice to his own ingratitude and treachery, for *Rhys* had raised him to a royal tribe." (Vide *Yorke's Royal Tribes*.)

The issue of this treasonable combination proving so favourable, Jestyn faithfully adhered to his engagements with the Normans, not only dismissing them with their stipulated subsidies and deserved honours, but with accumulated presents, suitable to the important services they had performed.

Eineon, in his turn, demanded the performance of his agreement, requesting the daughter of Jestyn in marriage ; but prosperity had materially altered the views of Jestyn, and he not only rejected his suit, but embittered the refusal with outrageous insolence. Resenting a conduct so faithless and ungrateful, Eineon hastened after the Normans, hoping to overtake them before they sailed. When he arrived on the coast, he found they had embarked ; he waved his mantle as a signal for their return. Fitzhamon and his knights immediately disembarked, to inquire into the cause of so sudden a pursuit. When they had landed, Eineon laid before them his grievances, and pointed out the facility of subduing a territory now unprotected by the sovereign of South Wales. Influenced in some degree by the injuries of their recent friend, but probably still more by the prospect of possessing so fertile a country, and flattering the prejudices of the English monarch, by extending their conquest ; these leaders readily engaged in the views of Eineon : and contrary to every principle of justice, of gratitude, or of honour, returned as the enemies of Jestyn ; and quickly dispossessed him of those territories they had just been so amply rewarded to defend. Fitzhamon then pro-

ceeded to a division of the domain, agreeable to the feudal system of the Normans. Reserving to himself the principal parts, with the seignory in capite of the whole, he permitted the remainder of the country to be held by his knights, as twelve fiefs under himself, according to the following territorial distribution :

1. The castle and manour of Ogmore to William de Londres.—2. The lordship of Neath to Richard de Grenavilla.—3. The lordship of Coity to Paganus de Tuberville.—4. The lordship of Llanblithian to Robert de St. Quintin.—5. The lordship of Talyvan to Richard de Sywarde.—6. The castle and manour of Penmarc to Gilbert de Humfreville.—7. The castle and manour of Sully to Reginald de Sully.—8. The manour of East Orchard to Roger de Berkralles.—9. The manour of Peterton to Peter le Soore.—10. The manour of St. George to John le Fleming.—11. The manour of Fanmon to Oliver de St. John.—12. The manour of St. Donats to William de Esterling.

The rough and mountainous parts he relinquished in favour of Eineon. The others were puisne lords under the paramount baron, and bound to do suit and service for their respective tenures, at a court leet and court baron held for this purpose in the castle of Caerdiff; where separate apartments were reserved for each of these appendages of usurped authority.

The entrance into the castle is by a bold Gothic gateway, furnished with two portcullises and massy

78 *Story of Robert Curtoise, Duke of Normandy.*

gates. The ruins of the castle have been repaired and modernized under the present proprietor, Lord Mountstewart, *Baron Caerdiff*. The keep, which stands in the centre of the inclosed area, is a handsome octangular tower ; and a high terrace is carried round the inside of the whole extent of the embattled walls that surround it : but the modernization of the present mansion, and the close mown grass and gravel walks of the area, but ill accord with the stately architecture and ivied walls of this proud pile, which has withstood the storms of seven centuries. The internal part of the present house remains in an unfinished state. In the dining room and saloon are several good paintings of the Windsor family, ancestors of the marchioness of Bute ; done by Kneller, Dahl, and Vandyke ; with a curious family piece of seven figures, in the best style of Hans Holbein.

A melancholy circumstance attaches to the history of this castle, which casts a gloom over the recollection. The unjust imprisonment and barbarous treatment of *Robert Curtoise Duke of Normandy*, by his *cruel and unnatural brother, Henry I.* The prince had displayed eminent courage and abilities in heading the crusade to the Holy Land ; and, in consequence, was fixed upon by the confederate leaders to be the king of Jerusalem. Whether he had an eye to the crown of England, then vacant by the death of his brother Rufus, or foresaw the difficulties attendant on a crown in a distant country, not yet established by right or conquest, or what motive was the cause of his refusal, is not apparent. The

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religieux of the time did not fail to consider his *want of zeal* as the cause, and, arrogating the privilege of heaven, to assert, *that as he refused to join the cross to the crown, the cross was given him without it : that he never after was successful in any thing he undertook ; and that the frowns of heaven were distinctly visible through the future period of his life.* But this is taking an undue liberty with the providential government of the world. Respecting individual judgments, it behoves us to be sceptical ; and, on this occasion, rather to shed a tear over the hard fate of so brave a man, and indulge a just indignation at the cruelty that could appoint it. That he experienced a miserable reverse of fortune, was for years confined in this place a prisoner, and found no rest till he arrived where the wicked cease from troubling, is a melancholy fact. But we should hope, for the sake of Henry and of man, that the details of history have been exaggerated ;* which say, that he was confined in a miserable dungeon, a few feet square, with light only sufficient to make darkness visible ; and that, on his attempting to escape, he was deprived of sight, at the command of his obdurate brother, by the application of heated brazen basins to his eye-balls ; by which the optic nerves were destroyed ! He fell at length a sacrifice to the unnatural cruelty of a brother ; and was buried in Gloucester cathedral, where

* Lord Lyttelton says, " that Henry made his brother as comfortable as the circumstances of imprisonment would admit, and that several actors were kept in pay to amuse his mind by various kinds of buffoonery ; a species of entertainment which Robert is said to have been more partial to than more important concerns."

his effigy, carved in Irish oak is still shewn, as a monument more characteristic of his fortune than his birth, by the side of another to the memory of King Edward II. a prince as unfortunate and as ill-treated as himself!

This castle, situated in the midst of the Anglo-Norman territory, experienced but few of those incidents so common to many others. In May, 1645, it was garrisoned by the Welsh loyalists for the king, but in August the following year, after sustaining a short siege, surrendered to the parliamentary forces.

Two miles to the north, on a rising ground on the left bank of the Taaffe, stands the ancient city of *Llandaff*. This, though a bishop's see, is but a small straggling village, with a few cottages. There are marks, however, of its having once been in a more flourishing condition. It is said there was a church here from the first planting of christianity in the island, and that the Gospel was preached at *Llandaff* so early as A. D. 186. At the latter end of the fifth, or beginning of the sixth century, it was erected into a bishop's see. Its first bishop was Dubricius, who strenuously laboured to defecate the stream of religious truth, at that time polluted by the Pelagian heresy. For his zeal displayed on that occasion, he was preferred to the metropolitan see of Caerleon, by the authority of the synod convened for its suppression. He first invested Uther, and afterwards his son Arthur with the Pendragonate and crown of all Britain. It must have been subsequent to this period that he retired to the neighbourhood of Llantony, and built its abbey. He founded also twelve monasteries, and instructed the monks to earn their

bread by the labour of their hands; according to the custom of the Eastern church. (Vid. MS. of Welsh saints in the library at Llandaff.)

It is remarkable, that although its pastor was dignified with the mitre, yet the cathedral was but twenty-eight feet long by ten broad; destitute of a steeple, and without a bell. The crosier then was not a rod of such extent, as at present. Both prelates and their sees were different from many of the present day. A few churches, sometimes only one, with several clergymen occasionally resident with the bishop, and occasionally itinerant preachers, constituted a diocese: at most it was a very confined and moderate district, compared with the extent of a modern bishopric. A shrewd writer observed of them, "that they had high racks, but poor mangers." This state of things, however, did not remain long; for Godwyn (de Præsul.) informs us, that during the lives of the first three bishops, Dubricius, Telian, and Odoceus, * so much wealth had been bestowed on Llandaff, that if it had enjoyed a tenth part only, it would have been the wealthiest church in the kingdom. The list of donations corroborates this conclusion. And if agreeable to justice such property had been unalienable, either by forfeiture or sale, a moiety of all the lands in the present diocese would now have been the property of the church. To those who believe that the oftener estates change their owners, the more likely they are to be improved; and that all lands in a state of untransferable perpetuity are mischievous, from the nature of the

* These, on account of the miracles they are said to have wrought, and the sanctity of their lives, were admitted after their deaths into the calendar of Saints.

tenure, to the state; this fact will afford a conspicuous argument for the restrictions contained in the statutes of *mortmain*. *

The cathedral, part of which only remains, was built by bishop Urban, A. D. 1107: which originally was accompanied with a cloister, and residences for the clergy. It was, if we can judge from the remains, a handsome structure; the door cases are ornamented with handsome Norman mouldings, and those on the north and south sides, are elegant specimens of what is termed *pure Gothic*. Two towers are still standing, one of which is much lower than the other; and appears to have been erected much later than the original building, we were informed, by Jasper, Earl of Bedford, in the time of Henry V. The west window is fine with lancets, above which is a statue of Henry I: and over the fine arched entrance another, said to be that of Dubricius. There still remain the monuments of two bishops; a full length figure in marble of Lady Godiva, the celebrated patroness of the men of Coventry; and two elegant ones also to the family of Matthews.

* This word, compounded of *mortua manu*; i. e. a dead hand, refers to all lands given to any ecclesiastical or lay corporation which came into the possession of a dead hand, because being liable to no sale and forfeiture, they were unproductive to the lords of the fee: who, by these alienations, lost their feudal rights; as escheats, services, &c. before due. Various laws were enacted, from the time of Henry III. to George II. to prevent such alienations. But as the reasons assigned no longer exist, it is a proper question to ask, whether some of these loyal prohibitions of the exercise of charity, and restrictions on the liberty of the subject, should not be repealed; as considerable difficulties and injuries frequently arise from them both, on the subjects of donation and devise?

But the principal monuments, with the bishop's palace, and houses of the clergy, were destroyed by the ferocious chieftain, Owen Glyndwr. The gateway of the palace, and a ruined tower, where formerly hung the great bell called *Peter*, now at Exeter, are the sole remains of these adjuncts to the cathedral. Such was the hatred for the clergy indulged in the bosom of Owen; and so complete were the retaliations dictated by his revenge!

The nave of the old church is unroofed, and within it is fitted up the present cathedral, for the performance of divine service: which though very neat, appears to a great disadvantage within these venerable ruins. It is a fault, which the votaries to genuine taste have daily to regret, because daily committed by modern architects; *that of mingling different styles of architecture in the same building*. For nothing is more common than to see Gothic structures with porticoes, altars, &c. in the different styles of Greece. Whoever made the alterations in this cathedral fell into this egregious error: for it is a farrago of styles; Venetian windows; Ionic pillars; fanciful friezes; and varied architraves! Around this motley of ancient and modern, the noble arches and ivy-clad towers of the original building, lift themselves in sullen dignity; and proudly overlook this petty system of innovation, with a silent, but forcible air of deserted grandeur, which conveys to the observer a strong and just reproach on the degeneracy of modern taste, as it respects religious buildings. The foundation consists of the bishop, who is also the dean; the arch-deacon, who is sub-dean; and twelve prebendaries, with two choral vicars. The choral service has been discontinued for some years, and

the portion of revenue arising from the discontinuance, applied to the service of repairs. The attention which is paid to the neatness of the building, and the decorum observable in the performance of divine service, do credit to the officiating clergy; and furnish an example, worthy not of commendation only, but of imitation. Crossing the river, by a tinplate manufactory at Melyn Gryffyth, we proceeded up the vale of the Taaffe, which rises at the foot of Tre' Beddw mountains in Brecknockshire, and after being joined by various streams, it appears to rush from the mountains; and, passing through the vale, disembogues its waters at Penarth Point. The weather being dry, its rocky bed exhibited traits of that violence with which it rages after rains. The breadth is very unequal, as well as the depth. In some places several hundred feet, covered with all kinds of stones, from the smallest pebble up to fragments of rocks many tons weight. These being dislodged from the mountains, it strews not only over its bed, but the adjacent meadows; which it often visits with desolating inundation. Swelled with the irruptions of the mountain torrents, it rolls its waters in such an immense body, as to pay respect neither to crops nor cattle, to man nor his habitation. Keeping up a continual roar, audible for miles, it sweeps down every thing that accidentally meets it in its outrageous course. On the brow of a perpendicular rock, which shews its bare surface through the umbrageous woods that flank the mountain ridge, stand the ruins of an early British post, called Castell Coch; from the colour of the stone with which it is built. The remains consist of a circular tower, and a few out-works. This was evidently one of those frontier

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fortresses to which the Britons retreated after a defeat on the plains. And, as a lofty hill a little higher up the vale on the opposite side is called the *Gaer*, it is conjectured this might be a post in the time of the Romans. Ascending higher, the windings of the vale increase; and lofty crags start from the midst of forest trees, which, dipping their branches in the waters, add to the wildness of the scenery. Here the bed of the river furnishes a striking proof, that Taafe does not disown his mountain origin. The variety and sublimity of the objects that here surround the observer, fix contemplation; and fill the mind with admiration and delight. On each side the river the hills rise like immense barriers, in places clothed with wood to the margin of the flood: again they recede, again they close; and you seem shut in to see, instead of cattle and habitations, craggy steeps and cataracts, and all the assemblage of objects, which decorate and diversify a romantic valley. The silence which prevails, interrupted only by the sound of waters murmuring over ribbling stones, or roaring over opposing ledges in the bed of the river, is a circumstance which heightens the colouring of every attendant feature; and tends to increase that luxurious melancholy, which solitary and sublime scenes are ever calculated to inspire.

While thus beguiled, you suddenly arrive at a point, where the road from Llantrissant to Carphilly crosses the Taafe. The communication was in Leland's time by a wooden bridge; at present it is over one of stone. This is justly considered an extraordinary fabric, consisting of a single arch; the curve of which is the smaller segment of a circle; the chord 140 feet, and the height of the key stone from

the spring of the arch 34 : a bearing nearly double that of the famed *Rialto at Venice*. The boast of the Venetians and the wonder of travellers, must sink beneath this admirable structure. * Indeed whether the nature of the river over which it is thrown be considered, or the person by whom it was erected ; it must excite admiration ; and the elegance of its curve, and the peculiarity of its situation, justly entitle it to the received appellation of *Pont y Prydd, or bridge of beauty*.

Inconveniences having arisen from timber bridges being often taken away by floods, the gentlemen of the country proposed erecting one of stone. In the year 1750, William Edwards, a country mason, accomplished the bold undertaking. In his first attempt this self-taught genius was foiled. The impetuosity of an uncommon flood assailed and threw down the fabric. Edwards became the butt both of envy and folly : his presumption was highly censured, and any attempt to erect a stone bridge over such a torrent, was the height of extravagance. But the prowess of genius is not to be measured by square and rule ; its nature is as anomalous, as its effects are great. Edwards had boldly conceived the plan, and he was determined to conquer all obstacles

* Montfaucon, however, it must be granted, gives an instance of one that eclipses this. It is one built by the Romans, at Brioude in Auvergne, France ; consisting of a semicircular arch over the river Allier. The chord of which is 32 toises and three French feet ; and the height of the key stone above the water, 14 toises : which, reduced to English measure, gives the chord or extent 208 English feet : exceeding *Pont y Prydd* by 68 feet. Vid. Montfaucon *Antiq.* Tom. IV. Part 2. c. 5. But he acknowledges this to be *far the largest of which he treats*.

which might oppose his carrying it into effect. The word *impossible*, to him, in things he supposed within the reach of human exertion, was the most disgusting in language. Having acquired wisdom by experience, he began to inquire into the probable causes of the failure: and his conclusion was, that the extremes must be too massy for the centre. He then formed a scheme of lightening the abutments by circular islets. This fully answered his expectation; and to the great annoyance of dulness, this ingenious fabric has withstood the attacks of the river for fifty years. It is however a matter of lamentation, that what the waters have been unable to do, the mischievous sport of the unthinking, without timely precaution, will quickly effect. Much of the parapet walls are already gone, by the idle custom of passengers taking stones off to throw down for the sake of the sound they make in the waters beneath. About half a mile above is a waterfall, which though not the height of many, yet from the craggy appearance of the rock, and the body of water that rushes over it in rainy seasons, must produce a fine effect; not a little heightened by the variety of the attendant scenery.

Near this place we were led to look for the scite of *Sengemith castle*; as every reason led us to suppose that it had been confounded with a more modern and magnificent structure, the castle of Caerphyl. In old maps we had observed, that one stood in the *upper* Commot of the Cantref, on the northern banks of the Taafe, where it is joined by the united streams of the Rontha Vawr and Vach; and the other in the *lower* Commot, on the eastern banks of the *Rhymney*. The latter is by the learned Leland

styled the *strong hold* of Sengennith, and described as in the lower Commot of *Iscai*; and the former in the upper part of the Cantref, in the Commot of *Hahcaihuc*, where the lesser Taaffe or Morlaix river falls into the Taaffe. Hence it is denominated by this author, "Morllay's Castle." Morlays (or Morlais Castelle, i. e. sea sounding,) standeth on in a goode valley for corne and grass, and is on the ripe of Morelais brooke. This castelle is in ruine and longeth to the king." (Itin. v. vth.) Nor do we hear of *Caerphylly* Castle, till a subsequent date to that of Sengennith; after the subduction of Wales by Edward the Third. That of Sengennith is mentioned previous to this period; and as generally being in the hands of the Welsh. Thus on a reconciliation taking place between Llewelyn and his son in law Reginald de Bruce, lord of Brecknock, in consequence of Bruce having made his submission, and begged pardon for traiterously siding with the English; Llewelyn not only granted it, but received him into favour, and conferred on him the castle of Sengennith: which the latter committed to the custody of his ally, Rhys Vychan, A. D. 1217. On the demise of John, Henry ascending the throne of England, the barons in their articles of submission to that monarch, basely and treacherously omitted the Welsh; who had been in strict alliance with them: and not only deserted their cause, but began to use the confidence they had lately obtained, to extend their domains, by the unjust seizure of Welsh estates. The tragedy was opened by a bloody scene, in which the Marshal Earl of Pembroke suddenly surprised the town of Caerleon, and put the inhabitants to the sword: when Rys Vychan, under the orders of Llewelyn,

retired, razing the castle of *Sengennith* and others untenable in this district, lest they should fall into the hand of a superior enemy ; first banishing all the English, or retaliating for the lives of his countrymen in a more sanguinary way. Subsequent to this, Llewelyn having visited South Wales, and been successful in his campaigns, granted leave to John Bruce, who also had married his daughter, to fortify *Sengennith*, which of right belonged to him from the original grant to his brother Reginald : forfeiture having occurred by the rebellion of Rhys.

The error committed by Camden, and other great antiquarians, of confounding this with that of Caerphylly, arose from this circumstance, that after the dilapidation of this, the other took the name of *Sengennith* ; because standing in the *Cantref* bearing this name. Hence the authority of the ever faithful though obscure historian, Caradoc of Llantcarvan, has been often questioned, and a slur cast upon his invaluable pages of British history.

Had the Honourable Daines Barrington attended to the information he gives, and been better acquainted with the country on which he treats, he would never have asserted, that if any castles were built by the the Welsh before the reign of Edward I. they could have been little more than fortifications of *sods*.* He

* Indeed the whole of the dissertation, whence this is taken, (in First Vol. of the *Archeologia*) shews how little the honourable author must have been acquainted with British History: For no one acquainted with it would suppose, " the *Lords Marchers* were not allowed the power, nor adequate to the expence of erecting castles." Nor would one that has seen Welsh bridges and other structures, suppose the people totally ignorant of masonry. Sir William Temple, were he alive, would smile at taking a numerical survey of the people from the number of sacramental

mentions the castles built at an earlier period by the Normans and Flemings, and was it not probable, that the Welsh, if they possessed none before, would endeavour to raise fortifications to oppose the inroads of these marauding foreigners? Had he been acquainted with the different styles of architecture, and written from actual observation, he would have found that the Welsh not only had fortifications of *sods*, but *castles*, admirably situated, ingeniously built, and as ably defended. This was one seated on a lofty hill above the river, near the road leading from Caerdiff to Brecknock. On the north and west it is defended by the steep escarpment of the elevated spot on which it stands, and the deep ravine through which flows the Lesser Traaffe; and on the south and east sides by a deep excavation cut in the native rocks; a mode of defence peculiar to Roman and British fortifications. The building appears irregular, approaching to a pentagonal shape. Some walls, intersecting each other at right angles, form the advanced works without the trench. The whole covered about an acre of ground. Beneath the ruins, almost buried, is a large circular Gothic room, about thirty feet in diameter, adorned with twelve flat arches, in which were placed the doors and windows; the roof is supported by an umbilical pillar, similar to the Chapter-house at Morgam. From this circumstance it has been supposed of Norman origin. But the question appears yet undecided, what style was peculiar to the Normans; and whether what is usually so called, was not of much ear-

communicants in the established church. And to assert that the Britons had no coins, is flying in the face of the most authentic history. See those in various collections of Caractacus and Cuno-
beline.

lier date than the time of the Conqueror.—(Vide *Essays on Architecture*.) However at the period this castle was repaired, for it appears to have been built before, there was an intercourse between the Normans and Welsh, both by marriages and treaty. The Welsh, therefore, would probably adopt some of their improvements, if not employ their artizans, in such alterations and repairs.

At a short distance from hence, in a spot originally calculated for reflection, stands Myrthir Tydvil; which from a hamlet of a few shepherds cots, is become a populous town. The genii of the groves have been driven from their retirement by the rude bustle of manufactories; and to silence and quiet have succeeded the noise and hurry of business. The discovery of rich iron mines, as well as every substance necessary for the reduction of its ores, soon attracted the eagle eye of trade; and by the genius and persevering spirit of a few individuals, who embarked their property in it, Myrthir is become a place of great and increasing importance. From the nature of the manufacture carried on, you must suppose it a dirty place; and the sallow appearance visible in the countenances of the majority of its inhabitants shews, that however profitable it may be to the proprietors, it is very unwholesome to those employed in the concern.

There are several works here and in the vicinity, belonging to different companies and individuals; but those of Mr. Crashaw, as being the largest, will principally arrest the attention of the traveller. The hills around are full of iron; lime and coal are often found on the adjacent spot, which is an advantageous circumstance, as the two latter are essentially neces-

92 *Method of making cast into wrought iron.*

sary for manufacturing the former. The ores of this district are of a greyish or brownish black colour ; second tribe, first, second, and third families of Kirwan ; and of so brittle a nature, as not to be worked with advantage alone. To give it tenacity therefore for wire and other purposes, they make use of a red ochreous ore from Furnace in Lancashire ; third tribe second family of Kirwan ; and by a proportionate mixture of the two, they produce iron of every quality, from the Spanish blade to the Swedish bar, adapted for the different purposes of making wire or sheathing wheels. The ore is first assayed by roasting, and its quality ascertained by its lighter, or stronger adhesion to the tongue. It is then in due proportions, with its flux, thrown into the smelting furnace. After enduring a white heat, and its scoria frequently removed, it is cast into sand moulds, and run into pigs ; which being reheated in a blast fire of charcoal, or cooked coals, is by the reiterated strokes of massy hammers in the forge, made into *wrought* iron. But for this purpose a new mode has lately been adopted, to change cast into wrought iron ; by repeatedly passing the heated pigs between steel cased cylinders, till they have acquired the requisite length and breadth of bar. The cylinders approximate each other by a screw guage, and are kept in motion by a movement from a water-wheel. It is called *puddling* *, and is eligible from the dis-

* This does not appear of modern invention : we have an account in the Philosophical Transactions Ab. vol. v. of *iron being rolled into plates* in the year 1697, and the process said to be discovered by Major Hanbury of Pontypool. And it appears, that the Norwegians, before this, were accustomed to roll their iron into sheets, for the covering the tops of their houses. The idea

patch and great saving both in labour and fuel. It has however been observed, that since this method has been very generally adopted, the iron and steel have been very inferior in quality. This deterioration of the metal has been ascribed to the substituting mineral for vegetable coal; the former not being entirely deprived of its sulphur and other substances, which may combine with the metal. But the same evil is complained of in works where charcoal fires are used. There cannot therefore remain a doubt, but it must be principally owing to this *puddling process*. While the heated pig is under the hand of the forgerman, it is observable, that the iron is diminished in size and density, by much of the heterogeneous matter that remained in the metal during fusion, being driven out by the verbatory power of the hammer. The pores are diminished, the metallic particles are in closer contact, and the texture of the iron becomes more compact. Now, from the difference between the nature of a *striking* and a *pressing force*, much that would fly off in the former, must be inclosed and retained in the latter case; by which, much of the end of forging is defeated. Hence it is found sometimes to possess the brittleness or shortness of steel, and at others, a softness ill calculated for the purpose for which it is designed. Notwithstanding this obvious and serious deterioration in the article, which makes the smith complain that the shoes he makes wear *like lead*; and the fair semstress, that the needles break in her fingers; yet owing to

was probably taken from *grinding of lead*, for the purposes of sheathing ships, practised by the Spaniards and Portuguese long before the above period.

the diminution in the expence of manufacturing, and the unexampled demand for iron during the war, many of the iron masters have acquired princely fortunes; and in reality discovered the *Philosopher's stone*.

The works of Mr. Crashaw consist of four large blast furnaces, with others of smaller size; accompanied by ranges of forges and mills. They have lately been much improved by the erection of an immense water wheel, fifty feet in diameter, and six feet and a half in breadth: the weight of the gudgeon alone is said to be a hundred tons. Several of less dimensions operating in different directions, are put in motion by this. The whole of this grand machinery is worked by a stream of water, not more than a foot deep; conveyed by a spout to the upper part of the wheel. The use to which it is applied, is the raising a quantity of air into a pneumatical reservoir; whence it is distributed by pipes to the various fires. These are the largest iron works in this kingdom, perhaps in Europe: when it is considered, that though labour is so much abridged by the powerful machinery, yet at present they *employ a thousand hands*.

Leaving this residence of Vulcan, with its dense atmosphere of smoke, we breathed freely in the pure air of the mountains; and crossing a barren uninteresting tract, obtained a sight of the ruins of Caerphylly Castle, on a small elevation, surrounded by rocky hills, forming a natural amphitheatre; the spacious and august remains of this celebrated castle, burst suddenly on the raptured view:

“ ————— The bard

That roams at even-tide through pathless woods

His shapeless way, shapes not ideal scenes
More suited to the pensive range of thought
Than yonder castle : mid the ruins vast
Lifting its hoary brow. The mellow tints,
That time's slow pencil lays from year to year
Upon the ancient towers, spread o'er the wreck
A grateful gloom ; and the thick clouds that sweep
Along the darkened battlements, extend
The melancholy grandeur of the scene." SOTHEY.

At what period, and by whom this castle was erected seems a subject that may justly be considered as the opprobrium of antiquarians. It has been attributed to the Romans, Britons, Normans, and English. The first opinion originated in the word *caer*, considered by Camden to signify *exclusively a Roman station*, who thought he had found in *Caerphylly*, the *Bublaeum Silurum* of the Imperial itinerary. But it is an objection valid in the great antiquarian's own opinion, that no vestiges usual in like cases, bricks, monumental stones, coins, &c. have ever been discovered here. A few coins have been found, but they prove to be either Venetian, or French of the middle ages. And *caer* is a British term of *general import for a city, fortified post or place of defence*.

The second obtained from this being confounded with *Sengennith castle before-mentioned*, as a British post ; because situate in the Cantref of the name. The opinion of its being erected by the great Norman *Baron Fitzhamon*, is yet more improbable. For it was very unlikely he should erect another of such magnitude, so near his own at Caerdiff ; and which from its magnificence must outrival his favourite work and residence. Nor is it more likely that the Welsh, at this time in a formidable military state, their spirits yet unbroken by submission, and their

finances unexhausted by alienation; would have permitted such a strong hold to have been built. As history appears silent, conjecture must supply its place: and both from the style and extent of the building, it may be fairly deduced that it was the work of one whose resources were great, and whose power in obtaining materials and commanding labour, must have been acknowledged and felt. The opinion, therefore, that Edward I. was the founder, is highly probable; and circumstances and time seem to establish that probability. For we are informed, by T. Walsingham, that after having erected the castles of Conway and Caernarvon in the north, played the farce of having his son born in the latter place, and settled other affairs in that part of the principality, he visited South Wales; and remained some time on a visit at the Earl of Gloucester's at Caerdiff; whence he frequently surveyed the county of Glamorgan and the adjacent territory. And that often being nobly entertained at the Earl's expense, he went to Bristol, where he kept a splendid Christmas, and returned to London after an absence of more than two years. (Vid. T. Walsingham, Hist. Angl. Tem. Edw. I.) This was the year 1285, which we may place as the æra of this stately edifice; and the mixture of Gothic and Saracenic styles of architecture, confirms the opinion. Numbers of Normans are said to have been employed in the undertaking, as being better acquainted with this kind of building than the English; and numbers of Welsh were pressed into the service, a plan adopted on the erection of the afore-mentioned castles. To have workmen or artificers in those arbitrary times, it was only to issue writs to the lords of the marches, or

the sheriffs wherever they were appointed, to summon a certain number of carpenters, masons, fatigue men, &c. without the formality of hiring or mutual agreement for work and wages, on an appointed day and at a given place, to labour for the king. Under such circumstances, it is probable thousands were employed on this occasion, and the amazing building quickly finished, as the name imports *Caerphŷli*, i. e. *The castle of haste*.

This gigantic building, tradition reports, included two acres within its interior moat; which was crossed by thirteen drawbridges. At present the ruins more resemble the remains of a city, than a single edifice; and when undilapidated, exceeded the enormous scite of Windsor Castle. Crossing two moats by two drawbridges, we obtained a sight of the citadel; which presented to our view the appearance of a separate castle. A lofty Gothic arch in the centre, supported by two circular bastions, adds to the deception. Through this grand entrance we approached the inner court, surrounded by a range of noble apartments, many of which remain sufficiently entire to convey some idea of its former grandeur. The east wall on the southern side of this entrance, is concave between the buttresses; which were furnished with battlements to defend the intermediate walls. The grand hall, except being roofless, is perfect; and exhibits not only a specimen of the pure Gothic, but of the splendid manner of conducting entertainments in those times. It is a parallelogram of 68 feet by 34; and the height of its once vaulted and fretted roof, seventeen. The component parts of the vault, consisting of twenty arches, about nine feet high, the Gothic windows, the chim-

ney piece with the ornamented outline of a window on each side, and the clustered triplets of its diverging pillars, that rose from the floor and extended to its concave roof, still give it a noble appearance. On the walls are seven pilasters or columns, in triplets, like fluted candlesticks; descending from the roof about one third down; each supported at the under extremity by three busts or antique heads. From the floor to the heads is twelve feet and a half, and the superior height about five. These were the supporters to the roof, which is now gone. At each corner there appears to have been a round tower, communicating with each other by galleries, and one of these galleries, ninety feet in length, is still standing; but the stair-case has long been destroyed. On the west side of the great hall stair-case, is a low circular tower, curiously arched, with the remains of a smelting furnace for coining; and on the west side of it a square wall, that supplied the garrison with water. In the exterior court at the east end, near the citadel, is, the object of general admiration, *a leaning tower*. It is of circular shape, 70 feet high; and is a proof of their skill in cements and masonry at this period. It is full eleven feet out of the perpendicular, and in this pendent state it has been threatening to crush the prying antiquarian, for a space beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the place. About half way down from the summit, a fissure divides it, and it was thus probably disrupted during the siege it sustained in the cause of the unfortunate Edward. The mode of besieging places in those days, before the invention of gunpowder, was to undermine the foundations; supporting the walls for a time by timbers, and making a breach

by setting fire to the supporters. Whoever has seen this, will cease to wonder at the *hanging tower of the Cathedral at Pisa in Italy*.

On the west and north are still visible vestiges of draw-bridges, by which the castle was connected with the adjoining elevation; fortified with ramparts of earth, and strong walls; and at the extremity are the remains of a round tower. This immense pile appears to have been built at different periods, and the want of uniformity in the plan indicates, that some of the exterior works were subsequent additions; probably in the time of Edward the second. Here that ill-fated monarch fixed his *dernier resort*, or forlorn hope, when pursued by his unnatural and more than brutal queen. Here with his favourite, the younger Spencer, he retreated before the reginal and baronial forces; who besieged the castle A. D. 1327. But it was so manfully defended, that his enemies were obliged to raise the siege. Regaining spirit, he now strove to stem the torrent of disaffection; and erecting the standard of royalty, he summoned his faithful subjects to rally round it. But it was too late—the horn of revolt had sounded, and his retreating to Wales made it sound louder and louder. Indeed, putting himself under the protection of the Welsh, was construed into a distrust of the English; and thus fuel was added to the flame of discord. The associating himself with a man so obnoxious as Spencer, placed additional weight in the scale of his declining fortunes. He experienced what all have done, who have been acquainted with the world, that to lean on its friendship for support, is to depend on a *broken reed*; that misfortunes daily diminish the number of our friends, and increase the

number of our foes ; that in exalted situations, no more than in humble life, the stream of adulation or assistance, no longer flows than it is supplied by the tide of prosperity. He left Caerphyli with a view of escaping to Ireland ; but, as though the elements had been commanded to be in a league with his bitterest enemies, contrary winds drove the vessel, in which he had embarked, into the Bay of Swansea. His spirits broken, and destitute of a single hope of surviving his misfortunes, he threw himself, in a paroxysm of despair, into the sanctuary of Neath Abbey ;* where he was taken with a few adherents ; and in violation of the laws, sent a devoted victim to the castle of Berkley ; whose walls still bear witness to the cruelty with which he was treated, and contain an odious trophy, the instrument of his death. The Welsh did not fail to make a religious and political use of his untimely fate, to remind the English of their unjust and injurious treatment. For they discovered in the horrible end of the son, a retaliation for the massacre of the bards, by the cruelty of the father ; of which circumstance the elegant Gray has availed himself to give a graver note to his Doric reed :

“ Weave the warp, and weave the woof,
The winding sheet of Edward's race.
Give ample room, and verge enough,
The character of hell to trace.

* He hoped that the sanctity of the place, and the right of privilege, would have disarmed his enemies. But they were betrayed by *Rice Powel, a clergyman*, in the queen's interest, who was well acquainted with the country. From his information, Henry Duke of Lancaster overtook them. Here Spencer was immediately tried, condemned, and executed as a traitor ; and the unfortunate monarch was sent under close custody, first to Ledbury, then to Kenilworth, and lastly, and fatally, to the castle of Berkley.

Mark the year, and mark the night,
When Severn shall re-echo with affright,
The shrieks of death through Berkley's roof that ring,
Shrieks of an agonizing king."

After the capture of the king, Caerphylly made a noble resistance under Hugh Spencer, a youth not twenty years of age. And the queen's forces found the place so impregnable, and the besieged so resolute, that an honourable capitulation was granted, by which the person of Spencer and the garrison were spared and their property secured.

Through a variety of changes the property has descended to the families of the Clares, Spencers, Beauchamps, Nevils; then escheated to the crown, then, by purchase of King Edward VI. to Herbert earl of Pembroke, then to the family of Windsor, and by marriage, to the Stewarts, in which it is still vested.

Such are the changes of this transitory state. This castle that has witnessed its lords living in regal splendour, exercising the most despotic power, paid the most abject submission, and basking in the sunshine of fortune; has again seen them suddenly cast down from their envied elevation, and experiencing the sad reverse of their former greatness; their conduct loaded with reproach, and their persons with execration, retiring under the strength of its walls for refuge from the persecution of those very persons who recently were desirous of their friendship, and lavish in their adulation. It has seen a monarch, the son and heir of him whose ambition it was to subjugate Wales, and by whose prowess it was annexed to the crown of England—a monarch who ascended the throne crowned with the laurels and the victories—

of his father, now flying to the very people so outrageously injured for protection ! persecuted by his enemies, and betrayed by his friends. And this proud and long important fortress, after thus for ages being the theatre of no common scenes, now itself sunk into insignificance, and witnessing its own decay. A few goats browsing on the bushes that vegetate in the crevices of its walls, served to point out its desertion—

“ Thus do these ivied-mantled ruins,

Like hoary-headed age, nod o'er their own decay.”

My friend, the histories of castles, towns, and nations ; the history of man, are nothing but the records of human calamities, the registers of human woes. These, however, we shall find are generally provoked by vices, and tend to the growth of virtue. Trials are calculated to invigorate the mind, previously weakened by inactivity and ease ; and by a forcible appeal to the heart, they assert the power, while they fan the flame of religion, fast extinguishing in the sensuality of prosperity and peace. The convulsions of nature and the enormities of man, the war of elements and the subversion of states, are admirably directed by the controuling power and influence of Providence, for the great purpose of supporting the moral interests of the world, and impressing the mind with the truths of the Gospel.

I am,

Yours, &c. J. E.

LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR,

Caerphyli.

FROM Caerphyli we proceeded over a mountainous country to the southward, till we entered on a road leading through thick woods and steep declivities into the vale we had lately left. This, both to ourselves and horses, accustomed to the smooth gravel of English turnpike roads, was not only a formidable but a perilous undertaking. Nature has done much for this country.—It has not only furnished the materials necessary for the formation and repair of roads, but it has actually *made them*. This we were upon is a genuine *British road*, formed by the landfloods, precipitately hastening from the mountains to the Taaffe. The shape is of course concave, the two sides rising considerably higher than the centre, which is plentifully strewed with large stones from the adjoining rocks, deposited at the most dangerous intervals that can possibly be imagined; so that you seem going up and down stairs on horseback. Sometimes also a quicksand letting us drop beneath the surface, reminded us, that vigilance should accompany our every step. Indeed the roughness, as well as difficulty of passing this tract, brought strongly to our recollection the celebrated *Appian way*: and however the comparison may shock those accustomed to offer all their incense on Roman altars, we could not help exclaiming,

“Hoc iter ignavi divisimus, altius ac nos
Præcinctis unum; minus est gravis Appia tardis.”

HOR. SAT.

After considerable toil and more alarm, we descended into the vale; and regaining the Myrthis road, soon reached Caerdiff.

Three miles from Caerdiff is the Roman station of Caeron, called *Cary*. The land suddenly rises to the southward, and on an eminence stands the small church. Beneath this are a variety of fortifications, consisting of valla and fossa, which from the porta decumanus to the west, and the prætoxiom still visible at the east end of the camp, are evidently Roman; several smaller works appear also in the vicinity. This was the *tibia amne* of Richard's eleventh Iter, and the road from hence to *Bovium* may be traced in this direction, passing the river Elay by a ford, still retaining the name of *Rhyd Sarn*, or the ford of a Roman road. The tradition is, that these were the work of Oliver Cromwell. That he occupied this post previous to the siege of Caerdiff, is highly probable; for it was a striking trait in the military character both of Fairfax and of Cromwell, that they never omitted taking advantage of every Roman camp, which lay contiguous to the scene of their operations. Rightly judging, that the genius of ages famed for military talent had been exercised in the choice of those stations; and that the wisdom of the *present*, was not to reject the wisdom of the *past*.

Obtaining the high land of St. Lethian Down, the views were prodigiously fine, and crossing it to the south, for the purpose of visiting the *coast*, we passed a delicious small vale, called *Dyffren*;* inclosed with moderately rising hills, that include an extent of pasturage covered with numerous herds, which

* Here grow in abundance *sison verticillatum* and *empetrum nigrum*.

gave the pleasing idea of richness and plenty. Following the windings of the stream, we imperceptibly found ourselves in a deep ravine, the ground rising abruptly on each side, well wooded, the stream meandering in the bottom, amidst thick brush wood to the sea: a neat white-washed cottage sprinkled about gave a pleasing effect to the confined, but singular beauty of *Cwm Cyddy*.

The vale opens into a sandy æstuary, which expanding to the right and left, embraces the small island of Barry. The traeth or sands are at flood covered, and is about as wide as the Thames at London bridge; at ebb, they are bare, and the passage only intercepted by a small stream of fresh water, fordable for horses. This island is about a mile and a half in circumference, (170 acres) consisting of eminences covered with maiden turf; and the soil being sandy forms fine burrowing for conies, numerous colonies of which occupy different parts of it. These are taken in quantities, and regularly sent to Bristol and other markets. Indeed they constitute the principal produce of the farm, which now lets for 50*l.* per annum. As this let four hundred years ago for 10*l.* it will appear, taking the difference in the value of money, that little improvement has been made since that period. Barry possesses an advantage, which is not made the most of, either by the tenant or proprietor. Quantities of valuable fish frequent the shores, as plaice, skate, thornback, gurnet, brill, mullet, turbot, and Barry soles, which are preferred to any by the disciples of Epicurus. It is celebrated as the burial place of St. Baruch, a disciple of *Gisalch*, a Briton of distinguished piety: hence, as a *MS.* of the church of Llandaff informs

us, the island derives its name. A chapel dedicated to this saint was standing in the time of Leland. But there is no building now but a farm house, fitted up as a lodging house, for those desirous of sea-bathing in retirement. And truly a more unmolested retreat cannot be imagined. To those who possess sufficient fortitude to brave the *ennui* of continual quietude, both the water and the sands are reasonable inducements. But the want of machines excludes many, especially delicate females, from enjoying the advantages arising from situation. To us there was a characteristic dreariness, heightened by the hoarse sounding ocean, that inspired melancholy: not a tree nor shrub, but one continued sight of sand partially covered with short grass; which a few *poor sheep were endeavouring to graze*. If you ascend the hill the wide expanding channel, and behind the well wooded, but thinly inhabited country; with the idea of being able to get off *but once in twelve hours*, (for the boat is not properly attended to) are points, that will furnish but little that is interesting to the *valetudinarian* or the *gay*. To a party, who have all their amusements among themselves, it may be tolerable for a time; but to those accustomed to the luxury of society, and other pleasurable amusements, Barry will not furnish a single inducement to visit or reside.

Our object in visiting this secluded spot, was to investigate, if possible, the nature of a phenomenon often asserted, and often denied to exist here. "In a maritime rock of this island," says Gyraldus, "there is a narrow chink or cleft, to which if you place your ear, you will perceive the noise of smiths at work. Sometimes the blowing of bellows; sometimes the

strokes of hammers, and fires fiercely burning in furnaces; sometimes the most harmonious sounds, like those of various instruments of music. The opinion how these are produced is, that here are fairies, or *spirits of the mountains*, incessantly employed hammering on the *brazen wall*, intended by the *prophet Merlin* for the perpetual defence of Britain. Who after employing them in this important work, carelessly inattentive to the great undertaking he had in hand; and being too much enamoured with a celebrated beauty, the grand *enchanter* became the slave of a more powerful *enchantress*. Decoyed by the irresistible charms of the lady of the lake, he was sentenced to perpetual confinement. The poor *fais*, or fairies, therefore, are doomed by the laws of magic to continue their unavailing labour, till the prophet shall regain his power and his freedom.*"

We sought, like the curious before us, for the phenomenon in vain. It has been supposed, that Gyraldus must have mistaken this for the small island of Holm in the *river Bury*; at a small distance from the promontory called *Warm's-head*; where are caves in which the wind often occasions a variety of noises. It has been the fate of Gyraldus, to have his veracity continually questioned; and the poor monk, though the most accurate *writer of his time*, has been the constant mark for the severity of anti-

* Near the abbey of Clairvaux in Switzerland, a story of a similar nature is handed down by tradition. An *evil spirit* is said to have been laid in chains, beneath a mountain, by St. Bernard. And the smiths of that country, upon entering on their labour in a morning, think it an incumbent previous duty, to strike three strokes on their anvils, to rivet the supposed fetters of this *aërial miscreant*.

quarians. If there be no such thing here now, it does not follow, that such a phenomenon did not exist in the 11th century. This island must have undergone a variety of changes in the course of seven or eight centuries; and it is evident the sea has made great encroachments on this coast. The fissures in the cliff may have been filled up with sand, or its aperture may be below *ebb water mark*. Enquiring of persons in the neighbourhood, it appeared, that although unable to substantiate the fact, they were rivetted to the opinion; which is not the case in the vicinity of Barry. I confess myself a strong advocate for that species of evidence arising from tradition; for though the chain may have many links, manufactured by superstition; yet truth is generally discoverable at the extremity of the line. It is by no means improbable, but there might have been here no opening in the adjacent cliffs, whose internal cavity being much larger than its aperture, the fluctuation of the waters would occasion an alternate inspiration, and expiration of the contained air: thus producing the various sounds so frequently said to have been heard, and so fancifully described.

Ascending the hill from Barry, we passed the ruins of its castle, consisting of a few walls included in a barn; and an arched gateway, now the entrance into a farm-yard. This was an appendage to the castle of Fonman, and in the time of Leland, belonged to the St. Johns of Bedfordshire. We again descended into a lovely cwm, through which flowed a crystal stream, and a few cattle grazing on its margin. Passing this over some rising ground, we imperceptibly found ourselves in another, with a stream descending from one of the hills that surround it;

whose sides are covered with stupendous oaks and spreading beech trees; accompanied with varied and most luxuriant underwood. The vale winding and tapering to the north, till it was lost in the distant hills, and opening to the south in a spacious expanse to the sea; which forms a grand contrast, with the distant coast of England appearing in the back ground, to the charming and delicious scenery of Porth cwm Cerrig.* The luxuriance of these bottoms was doubly gratifying to the eye, after the plain and unsylvan country we had before passed; and the traveller might easily imagine himself transported into the verdant vales of Piedmont and Savoy. To those, who have only passed in a westerly direction through the county of Glamorgan, it would never occur, that it possessed such a variety of sylvan and romantic scenery.

We proceeded to Penmarck,† where on the verge of a deep ravine stand the ruins of its castle. This with the manour was bestowed by Fitzhamon on one of his adventurous knights, Gilbert *Humphreville*: and was one of the *thirteen* celebrated in Anglo-Norman story. But alas! what is wealth and power and transitory fame. In this instance, its vanity is striking. The seat of it is annihilated, the family is extinct; and the very name obliterated from the records of the time.‡ The church is a good struc-

* On the rocks both here and at Barry grow *adiantum capillis-veneris*, *Polypodium vulgare*, *P. cambricum*, and the most shewy indigenous plant of the island, *Inula Helenium*.

† In a lane near the village we found *lamium luteum*, (evidently a distinct species from *l. album*) and *dianthus armeria*.

‡ Of the descendants of the twelve knights, there remain only.

ture, standing on the high land adjoining; and three large venerable yews in the church-yard, point out its antiquity.

About half a mile to the west, on the verge of another ravine, through which runs a small stream called *Kenfon*, is the castle of *Fonmon*. This is a large but irregular pile; built as a noble residence and place of defence; which is evident from the thickness of the walls, the flat embattled roof, and a high watch-tower at a small distance from it. The founder was *John St. John*, one of the twelve knights to whom the lordship of *Fonmon*, or *Fenvon*, was allotted. It continued in this family till the civil wars, when its owner was cruelly ousted for his loyalty; and the seignory, with its castle, bestowed by Oliver Cromwell upon Mr. Jones, a colonel in the parliament army, the particular friend and brother-in-law of the Protector. In this family it remains, being the residence of Robert Jones, esq. the present sheriff of the county. The castle has been modernised, the windows sashed, and the rooms decorated in the style of the time when the alterations were made. Many of the rooms are lofty and spacious, particularly the saloon, or, as it is called, the *Banqueting Room*. Some fine paintings by various masters, possess sufficient merit to attract the attention of the connoisseur; particularly a portrait of the *Protector*, thought the most striking likeness extant of that extraordinary man, presented by himself to the ancestor of the family.

At a small distance on the coast juts a foreland, called *Break-sea Point*, often fatal to mariners. In-

in Wales, the Tubervilles and the Flemings. In England the *St. Johns*, the *Granvilles*, and the *Siwards*.

deed the whole coast is the terror of those who navigate the Bristol channel. Sunk rocks and dangerous shoals lie in every direction, and numerous vessels are frequently wrecked on this *insidious shore*.

You will blush for humanity, my friend, when you are informed that the cruelties exercised by the inhabitants of this coast towards the children of misfortune, surpasses the ruthless storm or raging ocean. Nothing can exceed the distress that persons must feel when driven in a moment on tremendous rocks, with nothing before their eyes but a certain and a shocking death ! Or should they survive, it will be with the loss of property and friends, and perhaps every thing that makes it desirable to live ! But the conduct of those miscreants called *wreckers*,* adds pain to sorrow, and poignancy to distress. We had heard much of the rapine and cruelty of these human vultures : but as every thing that tends to degrade the moral character of man, has a retrospect to ourselves, and tends also to lessen our own consequence, we were unwilling to admit, but very partially, the reiterated testimony. A short period however furnished an opportunity to some of the party for conviction. A large vessel, the *Cæsar* brig, outward bound from Bristol to Santa Cruz in the West Indies, deeply laden, came ashore, in a dark night, on the rocks

* If affinity in crimes would lead to consanguinity, we might conjecture that these were a colony from the Euxine Sea ; rendered infamous from the cruelty of those resident on its borders, the *Andrapetoi*. Whether they were, as Faine says, *Amazonian women*, who sacrificed every man with whom they had any commerce and connection ; or, as probable history would prove, a race of men who sacrificed every stranger whom fortune threw upon their coast, to their idol *Aor*, or the *Sun*. (Vide Bryant's *Analysis*.)

above-mentioned. The news that a *fine prize* was off Break-sea Point, was quickly circulated. Numbers instantly flocked down to the coast for the purposes of plunder ; and Oh ! what were the sensations of the passengers and crew, when by the dawning light they discovered their situation ! Not only, that it was impossible to get off the vessel, but that she would soon go to pieces ! Mean while these harpies, by hundreds, were assembled, and boarding in all directions ; staving in casks and packages for the more easy conveyance of their contents on shore ; breaking open lockers, rifling the unfortunate passengers, and knocking down every one opposing their designs, or standing in their way ! Some gentlemen in the neighbourhood came down with what strength they could collect, with a view to hinder their depredations ; but showers of *poplers, the large pebbles on the beach*, soon convinced them, that to attack or defend was in vain, and that the safety of their own lives depended upon a precipitate retreat. Indeed their aim in the onset, is often to murder the persons on board, that there may be no survivors to become evidence against them. So totally lost are they to those feelings generally discoverable in the common robber, that neither age nor sex appears to make the least impression on their obdurate hearts. They strip even children and females, when dead, cut off their fingers, and tear their ears for the sake of the clothes and jewels ! and leave their naked bodies exposed on the beach, for interment to the returning ocean ! It is affirmed, that they frequently kindle fires on the various eminences, to allure vessels to the fatal shore : but, as we never witnessed this, we will stop at that point, where humanity

shudders at the recollection, and nature recoils at the rehearsal.

These people, in other respects, are for the most part harmless and inoffensive; they act their different parts in society like other men, and are even esteemed industrious and honest; but when a wreck occurs, which they call a *God send*, looking upon it as a special favour sent to them in the course of providence, their nature seems changed, and they seize with rapacity, and defend with ferocity what they conceive to be peculiarly their own. This idea must have originated in those barbarous laws that formerly prevailed over all the northern countries of Europe; and a few years ago subsisted on the shores of the Baltic: permitting the inhabitants to seize on whatever they could recover from vessels wrecked, as lawful prize. Ever since the time of Edward I. humane regulations have from time to time been made; and the law of wrecks gradually softened in favour of the distressed proprietors and passengers; and a statute of the late reign, puts the property under the charge of the sheriff, recoverable by the owner paying a reasonable salvage, and making it felonious to steal any thing from a vessel, whether wrecked or not; every thing seems to have been done that can be done by human laws, for the prevention of so foul a crime. But the most wholesome laws are unavailable for their end, unless they are regularly executed: were numbers to suffer for this crime, there cannot exist a doubt but it would be less frequent.* But it

* While we assert that the efficiency of human laws must depend upon a prompt and due execution of them, we are far from supposing that the powerful sanctions of religion are unneces-

too often happens, from the negligence and inattention of ship-owners and underwriters, that the force of the laws is weakened, and the desirable effects they were intended to produce completely obstructed; as in the present case, by the exertions of the sheriff and some of his friends, two of the ringleaders were secured, and committed for trial to Hereford gaol; but at the ensuing assizes, no prosecutor appearing, the culprits were discharged.

Making an excursion to the right, we sought, but in vain, for the Tumuli, &c. where a battle is said to have been fought between the *British* and the *Saxons*. We found a farm-house called *Lechmore*, which might have been so denominated from *Lech mawr*, i. e. a *great stone*, that might once have stood near; or, with more probability, from a *family of that name*, formerly the proprietors.

Near this is the village of *Boverton*, of which Camden has been happy in his conjecture, considering it the *Bovium* of Antoninus. Roman coins having been discovered in ploughing; and, at a small distance to the

sary. Indeed the present case most incontestibly proves the inefficacy of human laws *alone* to preserve the morals and peace of society. Were numbers to be annually hanged, it might lessen the number of delinquents, but the practice would not be annihilated. The history of man in every country, plainly demonstrates, that we are more the creatures of habit than of reason; and that the idea of right generally rises superior to the suggestions of fear; and the prospect of gain to the dread of punishment. Till you can instil into the minds of these people principles of strict justice, and convince them that the property does not cease to be vested in the proprietors, because accident has thrown it on the coast, and that to despoil the distressed enhances the malignity of the crime, it will be in vain to enact further statutes to ascertain the nature of the offence, or appreciate the punishment it deserves.

north, is the remnant of a Roman road, which appears again on Newton Down, in a direct line from this place to Neath, acknowledged to be the next station, or Nidum of the Itinerary. Boverton is a small hamlet in the parish of Llan Illid; or, as it is usually called, Llantwit Major; a place so celebrated in history, as to claim the most pointed attention from the curious traveller.

Of the antiquity of this place, and its extent and consequence, though now but a village, there is ample proof. It is known in old writers by the name *Bovium*. A monastery or college was founded here by Illutus, about A. D. 450; while a similar institution was opened by Dubricius at Mochros and Llandcarvan.* It received at one time seven sons of British kings. Here were educated archbishop St. Sampson; Leonorius, bishop and confessor; Maclovis, bishop of Malo in France; Paulus Aurelianus, bishop of Pol de Leon; and St. Dinotius, bishop of Bangor and Gildas, called Sapiens; and his twenty-four brothers. It was called Bangor Illuti in a MS. of the Stradling family, and was once the royal residence of the kings of Morgannoc, and called in British *Caerurgeon*. In the year 560 a large assembly was convened in the church of St. Illutus, to conclude a peace between King Morgant and *Trive* his uncle. At this assembly attended Oudvuceus, third bishop of Llandaff, with other abbots, the respective clergy and congregation, and peace was concluded and ratified on the altar of Illutus. Of such consequence

* To Dubricius and Illutus, with other luminaries of orthodoxy, flourishing about this period, is attributed by venerable Bede, the cause why the British churches continued so long uncorrupted.

were the abbots of this place, that they were always convened for the election of bishops to the see of Llandaff; and often succeeded to the episcopal chair themselves. The same *MS.* adds, that the students of the college had, for their habitations, four hundred houses and seven halls; which must mean most probably, that each had a suite of apartments, and that there were seven large buildings for assembling together, and for public exercises. It was the principal university of Britain, till the Norman conquest. In two mandates from Pope Honorius to Urbanus bishop of Llandaff, 1125, and in a decree of Pope Calixtus, it is named among the first churches; and particularly called *Llantwit, or Llan Iltut. A. D. 1118.* It continued in repute some time after, but when it lost its consequence does not particularly appear. Becoming less famous, it ceased to be mentioned by historians, as sinking below the English universities, then rising into fame. A school, however, for instruction in Latin and logic, maintained out of the profits of the church and monastery, was sold to an ancestor of the present respectable family of Nicholls, in the time of Henry VIII: and it is said that the present endowed school of Cowbridge arose out of the fall of this. The walls of the school are still standing behind the church, and the remains of the monastery are still visible north-west of the school. Through the ruins at the western door we entered what we might term the posthumous vestibule of the church, now roofless, and a considerable burial place: but in that state of slovenly disorder, which must disgust the living if connected by no other tie, but human sympathy. Amid these relics, are two monuments, probably brought here from

some other religious house at its dissolution. The one of freestone, a representation of an ecclesiastic, whose head, covered with a cowl, reclines on a cushion, and the feet rest on two globes. This figure is in high relief, with an inscription in Norman French,

Willhm: de: Rhchlllo: gyt: ici: Deu: de: sa: alme: eyt: merce*.

The other is a mummy-like figure of blue limestone broken in the middle. The inscription, in a similar character, may be thus read.

Nepa tract: (pro tractatum) statuatur, licetur que subjacet†. Nepa, as the *Feminine* from *Nepos*, appears to have been in use, during the middle ages. The church, from the style of architecture, is very ancient; but probably the present structure is of Norman origin. At the east end is a shrine and chapel, both in ruins, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin; and behind the altar, which is detached from the east window by a wainscotted curtain, a figure of exquisite sculpture in compact freestone, of *Prince Richard Hopkins*; the head broken off, and lying by the side, with a golden Torques round the neck, and a British crown on the head. In a niche of the east wall are the broken remains of a statue of the great Cambrian legislator, *Howell Dha*. Under the niche in basso-relievo, is the figure of a woman leaning her head upon her hand, in a reclining posture, representing the *genius of Wales* weeping over the loss of her favourite benefactor. And near is a small figure,

* William de Richelieu lies interred here, the Lord have mercy on his soul.

† i. e. A grand-daughter had this monument removed here, and requests the favour it may be suffered to remain.

in a kneeling posture, placed on a niche, under which is a *Banitier* or basin for holy water. On sight of the monument above-mentioned, we found ourselves wafted back to the period, when this great prince re-organized the constitution of his country; collecting from ancient and obsolete statutes every thing that could tend to establish the rights, and secure the liberties of his subjects. Forming, for that age, a most excellent code of jurisprudence, rendered *permanent by its justice, effectual by its publicity, and sanctioned by religion.* The following lines extempore by one of the company, at the sight, if they are not poetical, discover the genuine effusions of a feeling heart.

Let sculptured stone, let trophied urn or bust,
With flattery, deeds of heroes blazon high;
Let me admire the peaceful and the just,
And from their bright examples learn to die.

On whom should we our meed of praise bestow?
Who in our temples give a niche of fame?
But those who, proud to lessen human woe,
As friends of human kind deserve the name.

When furiate war her baleful influence shed,
With pallid treachery lurking in her rear;
And murder's flaming car dark horrors spread,
With blood-stained banner, and harsh glitt'ring spear.

Amid these days of carnage and of strife,
A Hero, mild as brave, my thoughts beguil'd;
Whom meek-ey'd pity usher'd into life:—
'Twas sweet philanthropy's adopted child.

Howel the great, but fondest name, the good,*
With noblest genius and religion fraught,
'Midst raging storms with bold composure stood,
And the rebellious, and the docile taught.

* *Howel Dda*, i. e. *Howel the great and good.*

'Twas thine, O child of peace, to sheath the sword,
With well-earn'd laurels olives to entwine ;
Make Discord's hordes obedient to thy word,
And Cambria's honour Cambria's peace combine.

No more the untimely widowed eyelids flow,
No more the orphan's cries are heard from far ;
'Tis deeds of mercy *real greatness shew*,
And Howel's genius scar'd the god of war.

While History's pages swell with thousands slain,
And veneration crowns the assassin chief ;
Can soft humanity the tear refrain,
Or cease from milder scenes to seek relief.

With anxious, ever-grateful eye she turns,
To annals never stain'd with brother's blood ;
The sons of slaughter from her presence spurns,
And 'twines her arms around the wise and good.

With looks benign she pointed now my view
To the great Howel, friend of human kind ;
Thy country's love, she gave, as honour due,
With smiling hope, *the rest to Heaven resign'd.*

In the church-yard are still remaining the remarkable stones mentioned in Camden. On the north side of the church, leaning against the wall, is one of a pyramidal shape, about seven feet high, four in circumference at bottom, and three at top; a portion of which appears to have been broken off, with a groove or channel running down the back part of it. Three circles or fillets of curious sculpture surround it, at proportionable distances; the intervals ornamented with fanciful gyrations, and beneath the lowest circle, ingrailed work to the ground. —The other is of an oblong shape, or nearly a parallelogram, standing at a distance on the same side of the church; seven feet high, one thick, and three broad, elaborately carved; and consists of si-

milar ornaments, with circular lines crossing each other, forming various involutions; and others at right angles, producing lozenges. Both fronts are divided into compartments, with an inscription within each, in what are thought Saxon characters.* The central one, *Crux Illuti*: that on the left hand, *Samson posuit hanc crucem pro anima ejus*: on the right hand upper compartment, *Samson redis or redias*; and in the one beneath, *Samuel Egisar*, i. e. the cross of St. Illutus, which Samson erected for the good of his soul; intimating by *redis*, that he also must die; and that one Samuel, if we read excisor, was the sculptor.

Camden and his continuator are at a loss to ascertain the former stone; and the latter they adduce as a specimen of the sculpture and writing of the middle ages. They have been conjectured by some, to be relics of the Druids, and by others the work of the *ingenious Danes*: both of which appear equally distant from truth or probability. The former opinion is founded on the one having a cavity on its top, and a groove or *caniculus* four inches broad and two inches deep, running down the side; like some stones found at Robright and in Scotland. But the Druids, strictly adhering to the injunctions given to the children of Israel respecting their altars, never allowed of sculptured stones, (Vid. Borlase and Rowland.) It most probably was a column to some monument, originally in the church; and the groove

* This is a presumptive, if not a positive proof, that what are called Saxon, are really British characters; and that the Saxons borrowed their letters, as they evidently did their learning, from the Britons.

in question, made to fit to one of the fluted pillars against which it might have been placed.

The other opinion is founded on the ornamental involutions being mystic emblems, or *Runic Knots*. But when ascribed to the Danes, we were at a perfect loss to account, both for the shape and inscription. The Danes, it is well known, when they invaded this country were *Pagans*; they are called so by the writers of the times; and their idols on record confirm the same. Would these idolaters erect monuments in a place dedicated to the worship of Christ; and even ornament them with the *opprobrious sign of the cross*: and consider such an act as of future benefit to their souls? Further; amidst all the irruptions of these northern hordes, we never read of their invading *this part of the coast*; and their depredatory mode of warfare was of that nature, as to afford little time for erecting sculptured monuments. If it should be urged, it might have been, when the Danes became converted; and were in possession of the throne of England: the argument will increase rather than diminish in force. If a monumental cross were erected to the memory of the holy *Iltutus*, by one Solomon, was it not likely that it would be erected soon after his demise; and who so likely to perform this pious and grateful duty, as his scholar and disciple, Samson, the afore-mentioned *Bishop of Dôle*? Iltutus flourished from *the early part to the middle of the 6th century*, about the latter end of which this cross was most probably erected, by Bishop Samson. If you ask who he was, the *Liber Landavensis* will inform you. Iltutus was called upon, with Archbishop Dubricius, to offer up prayers during the pregnancy of Anna, wife of Amon, a

Grecian prince, resident in the court of the King of Glamorgan, for her safe delivery; and that she bore a son accordingly, who was baptized in the church of *Llanildut*, by the name of *Samson*: educated here, he afterwards became a bishop, and died abbot of this place. In examining the top of this monument, we discovered a groove or mortise, pointing out that some other part had been let into the present upright stone. Upon search, we found the counterpart on the southern side of the church yard, lying sunk in the ground in the foot-path, leading to the porch. The lower part with a tenon of the same dimensions as the mortise; the enrailed work exactly corresponding: and a circular head, not very dissimilar to the cross at Margam. That this was the ancient mode of constructing crosses, it would be superfluous to attempt to prove. It were to be wished, that the clergyman of the place would have it restored to its pristine station: as it is certainly a very curious piece of antiquity. An elegant cross ornamented in a similar manner, called *Maen y Chyfan*, stands in the parish church of Tre Mostyn, Flintshire, and is recorded by Pennant: who though he does not guess at the age, observes, "that it must have been *previous to the reign of gross superstition* among the Welsh: otherwise the sculptor would have employed his chissel in striking out legendary stories, instead of the elegant knets and interlaced work that cover the stone."

A stone of this kind is seen also in Llandeveillog church, near Brecknock: containing a figure in basso-relievo, arrayed in a tunic with a sword in his hand: supposed again to be Danish, by the Runic circles, *as they are called*, forming a border to the

same. The inscription though partly legible, is unintelligible; but in the porch of the church is a stone, evidently broken from this, with the word CATVC, referring to Cadoc a king and martyr, who died *A. D.* 492.

Indeed the numerous monumental stones through Wales, with similar ornaments and characters, abundantly corroborate the opinion, that they neither belong to the Saxons nor the Danes; and that they belong rather to the civilized Britons than such a barbarous people: the former having been early initiated in the arts, by their long connexion with the polished Romans. Had these monuments borne the smallest mark of the northern character, or language, then with some probability the sculpture might have been ascribed to the Danes. But not one, that I have ever seen or heard of, was distinguished by such a mark; and *the Roman language was unknown to that people*. I more than suspect, that British antiquities frequently suffer by such misnomers; and that many are misled by the high sounding names of *Runic knots* and *Scandinavian superstition*. I hope I have rescued one from these puerile antiquarians; and shall probably have opportunities of rescuing others, in the course of my route.

Leaning against the wall of the porch, is another stone, about eight feet above the ground, 3 feet wide at bottom, and 2½ at the top; with an engrailed border, and an inscription in Latin in the same character; which as it is not noticed by Camden, and will serve to elucidate and confirm the above opinion, I will give you as it stands.

In nom-	ine Dei su	mini inci-	pit cru	+ sal	vato-	ris qua	re prepa	ravit	Samso	ni a pa	ti pro	anima Qu	thahe-	lo Rex.	Et art	mali	tegam.
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This stone, from the inscription, is dedicated to the memory of *Ithiel* or *Ithail*, Abbot of Llanilted, son of Morgan Mynyfawr, King of Gwent in the 6th century. He was called Ithiel ddû from his remarkable black hair and eyes: his son Gwrgant was King (by the word Rex), and succeeded his father; afterwards resigning the crown to his brother Eynydd, on his becoming abbot.

This place after declining, again obtained some consequence under the Normans. It formed part of the demesnes allotted to *Sir William de Stradling*. There is a large building, called the Town Hall, where justice used to be administred, still standing in the centre; with numerous ruined streets and lanes, bearing their original names; and one, called *the gallows way*, pourtrays in strong language the privilegia et jura regalia, with which these plunderers were invested by the policy of William.

I am Yours J. E.

LETTER V.

DEAR SIR,

DESCENDING to the shore, we found the noble shell of St. Donat's Castle, with its extensive hanging gardens, dropping in fine gradation to the

sea ; but in complete desolation. This large irregular pile, which was defended by a ditch, and in places by triple walls, stands on the verge of a deep ravine, and exhibits still traces of considerable magnificence. On entering the principal court, a number of niches with busts of Roman emperors and empresses strike the eye, which from their anachronism with the building, cannot fail to disgust the antiquarian. The state apartments are in a very decayed condition. The hall and what is called the banqueting-room are large, and in the latter is a chimney piece of modern date, shewn as a curiosity. It is large, surrounded with carved work, supported by double columns ; and the figures of Wisdom and Justice. Some part of the castle is still inhabited by two or three families, who let lodgings during the summer months, for the accommodation of sea-bathing. On the opposite side of the ravine, is a small square watch tower, said to be erected for the purpose of observing shipwrecks as a prey. This stands in what was in Leland's time a park of fallow deer ; but it has long since been disparked. In the beautiful glen beneath, is situated the small neat church. In the church yard is a light elegant cross of very curious workmanship, of an octangular shape, standing on a pedestal of three steps ; and on the top, which is square, the figure of our Blessed Saviour and two of his disciples, embossed in open work. The history of crosses would be an interesting work. The origin of them has been attributed to those erected by the command of Edward, on his return from the Holy Land ; in memory of Eleanor, who fell a martyr to her affection. But this is too futile to disprove. This may account perhaps for

some, which are called market crosses; but for those in church yards, and near religious houses, they were evidently erected as symbols, that those places were dedicated to the worship of *a crucified Saviour*.* The church is small, and far from exhibiting that neatness within, which we admired in similar edifices in North Wales. In a chapel adjoining are several monuments, to the memory of the Stradling family, in marble figures, reclining on sarcophagi, and placed against the wall. But what struck us as singular, were three representations of the family, painted on wood; with the age, character, &c. in gold letters. The dates 1480, 1535, 1590. One of the epitaphs is worthy of being recorded, as a clue to the history of the times.

EPITAPH.

" The under-named Harry Stradlinge, Knight, went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and received the Order of the Sepulchre there, as his father, Edward Stradlinge, Knight, 3d of the name, and grandfather of William Stradlinge, Knight, the 2d of that name, did; and died in the isle of Cyprus, in his cumminge the last of August, in the 16th yere of King Edward the 4th; and is buried there in the cite of Famagusta. This Sir Harry, sailing from his house in Somerseshire to his house in Wales, was taken prisoner by a Boylaine pirate named *Colyn Dolphyn*, whose redemption and charges stood him in 2200 markes, for the purpose whereat he was driven to sell the castell and manour of Bassalek and Sutton

* The first cross set up in England, according to Bede, was erected by Oswald, King of Northumberland, A. D. 635.

in Monmouthshire, and two manours in Oxfordshire."

From this family, the castle, and its domains, went into the family of the Mansels, and is now the property of Tyrwhit Jones Drake, Esq. I should have told you, that numerous buildings, called the Barracks, are beneath, probably erected during the civil wars; and that under the cliffs is a huge cave or cavern, which the neap tides prevented our investigating, and is celebrated as the retiring place of St. Donat.

Passing Morchros, we visited the castle of *Dunraven*, the seat of T. Wyndham, Esq. Member for the county of Glamorgan, whose polite attention furnished us with opportunities of observing every thing worthy of notice in this part of the country. This castellated mansion stands on a headland or promontory, which projects into the sea, called the *Witches' Point*. The cliff rises into a lofty dome behind, and on both sides of the house; which shelters it from the violence of the south-west winds. Many parts of the house bear marks of great antiquity.—The entrance was formerly by a bold Gothic arch, with a defaced coat of arms, probably of the founder. This has been taken down, and other alterations have been made. The present proprietor, with a spirit that dignifies the possession of wealth, has procured a plan for the restoring it to more than its original grandeur; and has already commenced the great undertaking. The grounds and park are in nature's most pleasing style of variety, consisting of bold risings, gentle swells, and pleasing depressions; and are admirably calculated for the views of the ocean, through the different openings to produce the effects

arising from grandeur and beauty. There is great *capability*, but Mr. W.'s laudable design of planting, and adding sylvan ornaments, to this otherwise varied scene, has hitherto proved in a great measure abortive. However, I hope, that once being frustrated will not damp the ardour of so patriotic and noble a plan, in a country where such useful ornaments are so rare: especially when there are both shrubs and forest trees, that will, in defiance of southern or western gales, lift high their crests, spread wide their fostering shade, and with their verdant foliage, paint with variegated hues the rural scenery. The park is well stocked with deer, and the venison is esteemed for its delicious flavour. A fine kennel of beagles, kept by the hospitable owner, affords exercise and amusement for the gentlemen in the vicinity.

This was a parcel of the estates of the Stradlings, and was purchased by the present family of the Mansels.

To the west of the park the Cwm runs to the sea, and between the high cliffs on each side a beautiful cove is formed, which, with a fine sand, constitutes an admirable bathing-place; and the adjoining high land called *Surrow*, (*i. e.* Southern) Down, abounds with cottages, and small houses, fitted up for the reception of those that are disposed to have cheap living, bathing, and retirement.

The cliffs here are several hundred feet high, and consist of the same limestone we observed at Penarth; disposed in horizontal strata, or layers of from two to six feet thick, or more; interspersed with a calcareous, and argillaceous earth. The tides out, an opportunity is afforded of viewing three wonderful subterraneous openings in the cliffs, called

the Caves, which it is dangerous to visit except at the first ebb, and *that* at spring tides, when the sea runs far out, it being nearly a mile and a half to the first cave, and the shore bold. The *wind-hole* is so called from several spiracles at the top of the cliff, up which the tide and a fresh south-east wind raise a strong air. The upper part is several yards high, forming an imitation of an arched Gothic roof. The length is about eighty yards, but you are prevented from ascertaining how much longer by deep pools of water. The second somewhat resembles a long piazza, in which you meet with the same obstructions; and the entrance faces the south-east. The third and furthest, lately discovered by some bold adventurer, is, from the various icicles, petrifications, and grotesque shapes which strata assume, considered as the most curious, and has obtained the appellation of the *Fairy Cave*. These wonderful excavations, which the violence of the waters have made, prove that some kinds of limestone are dissoluble in sea-water, probably from the decomposition that may take place, according to the different affinities, when the two different acids come in contact with the soda and calcareous earth. It may be worthy of investigation by the experimental chemist. Leaving with reluctance the hospitable family at Dunraven, we went in quest of plants on the neighbouring rivers, but found few that are not generally observable in similar situations. Attentive to the minutiae of Nature, it would be impossible not to notice her bolder operations. While in the vicinity of the Ogmore, we recollected it had been stated that this river *makes a dip under a mountain, appearing again near Nevern Bridge*, at the distance of two

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accommodation. The *Down* is a *Down* of *Down* abundance of small houses fitted up for the reception of those who are desirous to have cheap accommodation. The *Down* is a *Down* of *Down* abundance of small houses fitted up for the reception of those who are desirous to have cheap accommodation.

the Caves, which it is dangerous to visit except at the first ebb, and *that* at spring tides, when the sea runs far out, it being nearly a mile and a half to the first cave, and the shore bold. The *wind-hole* is so called from several spiracles at the top of the cliff, up which the tide and a fresh south-east wind raise a strong air. The upper part is several yards high, forming an imitation of an arched Gothic roof. The length is about eighty yards, but you are prevented from ascertaining how much longer by deep pools of water. The second somewhat resembles a long piazza, in which you meet with the same obstructions; and the entrance faces the south-east. The third and furthest, lately discovered by some bold adventurer, is, from the various icicles, petrifications, and grotesque shapes which strata assume, considered as the most curious, and has obtained the appellation of the *Fairy Cave*. These wonderful excavations, which the violence of the waters have made, prove that some kinds of limestone are dissoluble in sea-water, probably from the decomposition that may take place, according to the different affinities, when the two different acids come in contact with the soda and calcareous earth. It may be worthy of investigation by the experimental chemist. Leaving with reluctance the hospitable family at Dunraven, we went in quest of plants on the neighbouring rivers, but found few that are not generally observable in similar situations. Attentive to the minutiae of Nature, it would be impossible not to notice her bolder operations. While in the vicinity of the Ogmores, we recollected it had been stated that this river *makes a dip under a mountain, appearing again near Nevern Bridge*, at the distance of two

sight in one general azure tint, diversified only by a few lines of light and shade, till the accompanying objects were lost in the indistinctness of vision, and the whole wrapped in the mantle of obscurity. In the back ground, the mountains constituted a faint blue semicircle, forming an irregular margin to the distant horizon." To the south, the distant coasts of Somerset and Devon—the channel opening in a magnificent manner, till lost in the wide expanse of the ocean, whose fluctuating waters were tinged with rich brilliancy, from the silver rays of the rising moon. With a sombre serenity, which a view of Nature thus presented, cannot fail to produce on the contemplative mind; we descended to the small village of *Newton*, lately exalted into the rank of a *Watering Place*.—Taking refreshment and repose at the bathing-house, we rose early in the morning to take a survey of the coast and neighbourhood; when we were at a loss to account for this becoming a place of fashionable resort. The house is small and incommodious; situated very low on the beach; and sand hills, in almost every direction, prevent a view of the water. Here is, however, a machine, which is stationed about a mile below. The beach is good and well sheltered by the limestone cliffs which here rise to a great height. But the walk from the house over coarse drifting sands, to delicate ladies must be a formidable undertaking. Here are no rural walks, no umbrageous woods to invite to pleasure, no melodious songsters of the grove to induce repose; but one extent of sands, devoid of verdure, assail the eye with sameness and sterility: and the herbage deracinated by the westerly winds, furnished but little towards the object of this excursion.* The shore is

curved, and forms a small bay, where ships in distress of weather often run for shelter, preferring being stranded here to risking a rencontre with dangerous rocks. The inhabitants of the village are employed in blowing up the cliffs for limestone, which is carried in small vessels to the opposite coasts. It is sold on the spot for one shilling per ton, out of which the quarrier pays the proprietor of the land three shillings in the pound.

Disgusted at the difference between the real situation of the place, and the enchanting description we had previously received of it, we were about to leave it in haste: but recollected that it was famed for an extraordinary spring, called *Sandford's Well*, whose waters *sink with a flood, and rise with an ebbing tide*. Springs that ebb and flow with the ocean are not uncommon; but this is certainly a phenomenon. It is at a small distance from the shore, and inclosed, having a few steps leading down to it, as the water is used by the people for domestic purposes. When the tide is in you can scarcely perceive a drop in the well, but when out, the water copiously flows; and it is curious to see how gradually and regularly it takes its progressive and retrograde motions, in opposition to the adjoining sea. In digging for water on these sands, other springs have been observed to possess the same property. A similar phenomenon is noticed at Cadiz, by Polybius, who thus endeavours to explain the cause. "That the air, being deprived of its usual vent, returns inwards, by which

* We noticed *cynoglossum officinale*, *marrubium vulgare*, *empetrum nigrum*, *myrica gale*, *ononis repens*, *erica tetralix*, *erica didyma*, *vaccinium vitis idæa*, *geranium maritimum*, *geranium cicutarium*, and a variety with a white blossom.

136. *Sanford's Well—a remarkable Spring.*

means the veins of the springs being stopp'd, the water is kept back; and so on the other hand, the water leaving the shore, these veins or natural aqueducts, being freed from all obstruction, the water consequently springs." The darkness of this illustration must be attributed to ignorance of hydraulics in the days of the above writer.

At a small distance from Newton, stands *Cynfeg* castle, said to have been a residence of De Esterling, but from its size no more than a common keep; it was more probably an *advanced post*, for making observations towards the bay of Swansea. A few walls are now remaining, but no vestige that it was ever of greater extent. I fear you will be wearied with my detail of castles, but they furnish a lesson of useful instruction. They lead us to observe, when men unjustly lay their hands on the property of others, what care and trouble it brings upon themselves; and into what difficulties and contentions it involves their posterity. For never was the truth of the observation more strikingly illustrated, "that what is acquired by violence must be defended by power," than in the encroachments so injuriously made by the Normans on the Welsh. On the adjacent rising ground is the village of *Cynfeg*, which in the time of the Clares, was a *borough town*, and originally situated in the sandy flat beneath. But the sea continually threw up such heaps of sand as to bury the town, and every trace of it was swallowed up by a subsequent inundation, the inhabitants being driven to the rising ground, on which the present village is situated. It stands at the head of a small lake named *Cynfeg pool*, about half a mile in length, and one third in breadth, which is remarked for being

on elevated ground. In the infant state of geological knowledge, it would be difficult to account for such a body of water in the situation of Cynfeg. And ignorance, ever prone to solve difficult questions in a summary way, would naturally have recourse to some wonderful story to account for the cause. This is attributed to the swallowing up of a large city by an earthquake. * In proportion as the mind is uncultivated it is fond of the *marvellous*; and its rude combinations may be compared to the incoherent phantasms of a dreaming philosopher. It would be easy to conjoin the disaster of the town with the origin of the lake, and from this association it is probable the story arose. The lake abounds with a variety of fish, and is famous for a sort of *large eels*, esteemed by many for the delicacy of their flavour. Proceeding to the west, in a lane, is the stone mentioned by Camden, standing erect, bearing the inscription *Pompeius Carantorius*, still legible. The Welsh consider it a *British monument*, marking the burial place of Prince Morgan; who gave the ancient name to this part of the country. Entering the village of Margam, our attention was called to a low stone cross, of elegant sculpture, having two figures, and some characters rendered illegible by time. The various ingrailments and circumgyrations have induced some to think *this a Danish monument*; but from the similarity of the fretwork as well as shape to that of Llanilled, it must be referred to a higher date. At a small distance from the village,

* A similar event is said to have happened between Margam and Llansawel, and another in the bay of Oxwick lives in the tradition of the inhabitants. Thus also the people of Llanfaffraid account for the origin of Brecknock Meer.

to the north, is a high hill named *Mynydd mawr*, whose side is covered with an extensive wood of venerable oaks, which having attained to age and strength, midst many a ruthless storm, exhibit their weatherbeaten heads with so much regularity, as to put on the appearance of having been shorn by art. We noticed a similar circumstance on the side of a hill, between Barmouth and Harlech. A number of young trees in both instances have grown up, under the shelter of the old ones, which not being so early stunted, have o'er-topped the rest, and of late years destroyed in some degree the striking uniformity.

Margam, the property of Mr. Talbot, was for ages the family seat of the *Mansels*. But the place is deserted, the mansion-house taken down, and the materials removed to Mr. T.'s new erected mansion of *Penrice*. At a small distance from the scite of the old house, a large building has been erected 330 feet long, and 80 feet wide, to preserve a valuable collection of orange trees from the inclemency of the weather. These were intended as a present from the King of Spain to Queen Elizabeth; but the vessel being wrecked on this coast, they became as a waif, or, by purchase, the property of Lord Mansel. Since that time several additions have been made from Portugal and Italy; and it is, without dispute, a large and fine collection. But the description that has been given of them is evidently an exaggerated one, as few of the trees run more than ten feet high. To those who have seen the orange trees at *Kew*, or the Earl of Coventry's orangery at *Earls Croombe*, these will not appear perfectly *Patagonian*. They appear vigorous and in full bearing, and were now arranged round the margin of a pond. The conservatory strip-

ped of its vegetable ornaments, appeared to a disadvantage. It has been observed, that the dimensions of this building are disproportionate, that neither the breadth nor the height are compatible with the length; and that every rule of just proportion has been neglected or defied. But it should be considered, that the relative admeasurement of a church and a drawing-room are not to be estimated by the laws of progression, and that proportion in architecture not only comprehends *size* and *figure*, simply considered, but also the *fitness of a building for the purpose of its erection*. In this view the present building, *as a conservatory for plants, and as a place for exhibiting them to advantage, cannot be viewed as disgusting in its symmetry*. At each end is a handsome lofty room, appropriated for the preservation of classical antiquities in the more curious models of ancient art. A model of the Colosseum in pumice stone; a cork representation of the triumphal arch of the Emperor Titus; and another of the celebrated temple of Tivoli: with various vases in porphyry and Parian marble. In the other are deposited statues, altars, and other monuments, of Roman and Grecian workmanship. Among these, a figure of Harpocrates; a satyr, with a fistula in his hand, and a panther skin on his shoulders; a Hercules, and a fine bust of Minerva, with a galea on her head, cannot fail to attract the attention of the classical visitant at Margam. These were collected at a great expence in Italy, by the present proprietor, and intended, before his removal, for a cabinet of specimens representative of ancient and modern arts.

A few tottering walls, an area enclosed by several concentric arches, evidently the refectory, which was

inclosed as a larder for the late mansion-house, and a chapter-house, are all the remains of this once magnificent abbey. The latter, without exception, is perhaps the most perfect specimen of the elegant simplicity of what is called pure Gothic, to be seen in the kingdom. It is a circular building, having its roof supported by one umbilical pillar, which spreading into several light branches at top, forms perfect arches with the points of the pilasters, between the seven windows uniting with them. When we first visited this place the building was perfect, but we had now to lament, that one of the divisions having given way, the greater part of the elegant roof was falling in.

The abbey church is still made use of for parochial purposes, and is a good specimen of the mixed or Norman Gothic. The chapel at the east end contains some well executed monuments to the memory of the Mansels; and the altar-piece is formed of curiously coloured bricks: the west front consists of a large window divided into three compartments, with circular arches. But both the church and chancel are in a dilapidated state.* About the adjoining grounds are a variety of inscribed and monumental stones; several evidently Roman; among which we noticed one, with an inscription in Italic capitals, "*Senatus populusque veromanus divo Tito, divi Vespasiani, F. Vespasiano Augusto.*" Others with engrailed and fret work, like those at Llanillyd: particularly one, a shaft on a pedestal, leaning against

* Amid the various ruins grow *aquilegia vulgare*, *cotyledon lutea*, *valeriana rubra*, and a variety with a white blossom, *antirrhinum cymbalaria*, *antirrhinum majus*, and a variety with white petals.

the wall of an out-house, variously and elegantly ornamented with the inscription in Saxon or British characters, but too much obliterated to be decyphered. Some also in Welsh, with dates as low down as 1524.

This abbey of the Cistercian order, was founded by William Earl of Gloucester, grandson of Fitzhamon, A. D. 1147. And Leland, in his *Collectanea*, inclines to the opinion, of its having exceeded in magnificence the one at *Nuth*.

On the summit of a hill to the right is a square stone, called *Y maen Llythyrag*, i. e. the lettered stone. It is about five feet high above the ground, and one thick, containing an inscription, which from the ignorance of the neighbourhood, remained long uninterpreted. This was a circumstance partaking too much of the marvellous to escape the observation of superstition; which accordingly placed it under the protection of the *Parcæ*; and connected the decyphering with the laws of destiny. However this fatal inscription *has been read* by some bold spirits, with religious impunity, thus, "*Bodvacus hic jacet filius Catotis Irni pronepos Æternali Domo.*" Who this Bodvac, son of Catot, and grandson of Irnus was, it is difficult to conjecture; that he was a Roman and a heathen, may be gathered from the inscription, *domus æterna* being the common appellation for a *sepulchre*, in the times of heathen Rome; while the word *æternalis* being, of inferior Latinity, strengthens the opinion of its belonging to a subsequent period.

A little further is a mountain called *Mynydd Derminu*. The summit is a level pasture, on which stands a large rude stone, of a species different

from those found in the vicinity; about fourteen feet high, and at a small distance an *Aggera*, or heap of loose stones. Probably the burial place of some chieftain that here fell in battle, or who was brought here as a conspicuous place of interment. I need not inform you, that kings and great men were formerly buried on mountains, or at the foot of them; and that the raising a mount or tumulus, and erecting stone pillars was of very high antiquity. Virgil mentions the former, when speaking of the death of Dercennus:

“ ——— Fuit ingens monte sub alto

“ Regis Dercenni terreno ex aggere bustum.”

Æn. XI.

And the latter custom is alluded to in the story of Ida's striking Pollux with a pillar broken from the tomb of his grandfather Amyclas. (Vid. Lycophron, Cass. v. 557.) The hills on the right covered with wood, formed a pleasing contrast to the swampy rush-clad flat on our left, as we approached Aberavon. This village stands about two miles from the sea, above the *Avon Bar*, from which circumstance it takes its name. It is rising into some consequence from extensive copper works carried on here, by a company from Bristol. Inquiring into the customs and curiosities of this part of the country, we were directed to the works below: but a hoary-headed peasant, whose quickness of perception kept pace with his memory, surmising we were not satisfied with this information, and lifting his voice to a pitch that bespoke he was jealous for the honour of his native spot, observed, that *Aberavon* from its flat situation, could not be expected to exhibit such wonders as the *mountainous part* of the country; but

there was one thing of which it could boast above any other place on the coast. "Every Christmas day in the morning, gentlemen, a salmon exhibits himself in the river that runs *by this ancient corporation*; and is so docile as to permit himself to be handled and taken by any person that wishes. But if any were so impious as to kill him, a divine judgment would instantly overtake the wicked man." This story thus asserted by one, was corroborated by many, and is attested by those who have had the felicity to be familiar with this very extraordinary visitor; but were not irreligious enough to arrest his body. Of all the motley swarms of stories produced in the seculent waters of superstition, this appears as extraordinary as any: we hope, therefore, the good-natured people of the place will forgive us, if unable to account for the origin, we cannot discover the utility of the story. And as we are not possessed of sufficient faith to believe, that the sun dances on Easter-day, we withhold our assent from the miraculous appearance of this inhabitant of the wave.

The country now put on a pleasing rural garb, as we passed through large groves of oak and chestnut, on the eastern banks of the *Nedd*. An avenue near two miles in extent defended us from the oppressive heat of the sun; while the adjacent declivities studded with neat houses, furnished an agreeable scene; the effect of which was heightened by the dense woods of Vernon Park, on the margin of the æstuary. Here is the justly admired spot called Briton Ferry. The advantages which nature has bestowed on this place baffle all attempts at adequate description: whatever enters into the bold or pleasing landscape, are here combined, verdant slopes, shady

woods, abrupt declivities, with massy oaks growing out of the iron-stone rocks; and shewing their roots through the strata on the banks of the river: the river Nedd opening in a wide æstuary to the ocean; the moving scene of shipping up and down the river; all unite to adorn this place with numerous and peculiar charms. In this enviable spot, amidst thick plantations, stands the small but elegant mansion of Lord Vernon. The house is low, having two wings with attic windows in the roof, ornamented with a balustraded parapet. Before the principal front are clumps of myrtles, a proof of the mildness of the air. The park consists of several small eminences, with irregular walks, terminating in vistas, which command the most delicious views: the æstuary, the bay, the mumbles, and the distant mountains in fine perspective. Every view is different, but every one picturesque and interestingly fine. The points are admirably chosen, and the formation and disposal of the whole display much judgment and true taste.* Indeed it must be a perverted one indeed, that could despoil nature of many of the beauties she has so lavishly bestowed on *Briton Ferry*. But the admirer of nature will lament, that the privacy and silence which tend to produce and enhance the pleasurable effects of rural scenery, are now invaded and destroyed by the continuation of the Neath canal; cut for the purpose of an easier delivery of coals for exportation, from his Lordship's and other col-

* In the woods we found *salvia clara*, *oreobus sylvaticus*, *melampyrum sylvaticum*, *sanicula Europæa*, *hypericum pulchrum*, *hypericum androssemum*, *astragalus ufaensis*, and on the shore, *arenaria peploides*, *salsola kali*, *eringium maritimum*, *chenopodium maritimum*, and *chelidonium glaucum*.

lieries in the vicinity of Neath. The shallow and shifting sands of the river prevent vessels getting out or in, but at spring tides: and at all times render the navigation difficult and precarious. This has of late years thrown the balance of the *coal trade* into the hands of their neighbours at Swansea. The Neath proprietors will however by this plan be enabled to come in for a share of the trade. This has been represented as strongly derogatory to his Lordship's taste; but it must be acknowledged that beauty should be subordinate to utility; and in many instances taste has been obliged by imperious necessity to make sacrifices, which though she does not admire, she has been unable to avoid. And his enthusiasm must far exceed his benevolence, who does not rejoice, that a market is thus opened for the commodities of the country; and new sources of wealth afforded to the inhabitants. Nor can it be doubted, that while his Lordship enjoys for the present the fruits of his exertions; that his patriotic spirit will receive, as it deserves, the thanks of posterity.

To the south of the park, embosomed in a native grove, stands the small neat church of *Llansawel*. * Nothing could exceed the emotions of awe and veneration excited in my mind by the air of seclusion and solemnity, apparent in this sequestered place. For it is, without exception, the most desirable cemetery I ever beheld. Inclosed so as to prevent the

* " Briton Ferry, caullid in Walsche Llanisauel, wher be 3 or 4 houses and a chapel of ease on the hither side of Nethe Ryver. The trajectus at the fude is more than half a quarter of a mile over. " *Leland Itin.* Vol. IV. fol. 55.

rude tread of brutal or unhallowed feet, and undisturbed by the premature intrusion of the unfeeling sexton, the sacred ashes of the silent dead may here in rest repose. For here that posthumous respect is paid to the bodies of departed friends, consistent with the exalted hope we entertain of their being raised again, crowned with glory, and reanimated by their former inhabitants; only purified and exalted to a state agreeing with their *high and heavenly descent*. Few costly monuments bedeck this truly elegant depositary of the dead; but a number of plain stones with neat inscriptions, mark the interment of departed worth; or bespeak the affection of surviving friends.* Every grave is circumscribed with the most careful exactness, and *Flora's gifts* are taught to thrive within the neat inclosures. Fond fancy in her decorations has assumed a variety of forms; but all are appropriate, all are strictly chaste. I feel myself among the dead! My mind is become in unison with the place. I reflect on the past, I ruminate on the *present*; and the *future* seems as though it were present with me. I appear rivetted to the spot, and my heart seems more than ever disposed to profit by the impressive lessons these funeral emblems around me, are calculated to furnish.

I am ever Yours, J. E.

* Monuments were formerly supposed to conduce to the happiness of the deceased, while the doctrine of *purgatory* and the efficacy of posthumous prayers were generally believed. If this were the case, how much more efficacy, as bespeaking the suffrages of the living, must these pleasing and constant attentions produce? Though the error vanished as the light of the Reformation shone forth, yet I feel so affected with the expressive sympathy of the custom, that I say to my survivors:

“ Vivite felices, memores et vivite nostris,
Sive erimus, seu nos fata fuisse velint.”

LETTER VI.

DEAR SIR,

LEAVING the calm retreat, and refreshing shades of Briton Ferry, the country began to change its appearance; and reminded us, that we had left the quiet walks of life, and were entering upon a manufacturing and commercial part of the country, as we approached the town of Neath, than which a more uncomfortable or disgusting place, perhaps, cannot be imagined. The streets are narrow and dirty, and the houses blackened with the continual columns of smoke, that ascend from the collieries and founderies: the inhabitants partake of the same dingy hue; the baleful effluvia blast vegetation in its infancy, and destroy the appearance of verdure in the vicinity. Some walls of its castle, built by one of the Norman knights, are still standing; but the only thing worthy of remark is the ruins of its large and celebrated abbey; whence it was called *Abbat y Glyn Nedd*: the latter being the name of the river, on the western banks of which it stands. It was a Cistercian house of white monks, dedicated to the Holy Trinity; founded by Richard de Greenville and Constance his wife, who bestowed the tythes belonging to the castle of Neath, with a large tract of waste land and other possessions, in the time of Henry I. to the abbot and convent of Savigny, near Lyons in France, for the purpose of erecting and peopling a monastery in this place. Accordingly, the *Fratres Grisei* quickly executed the wishes of the pious founder; and, in compliance to their benefactor, transformed themselves

from grey to white: from *Franciscan*, to *Cistercian* brethren. At the Dissolution, the fraternity consisted only of eight monks; and the revenues, according to Dugdale, were 132l. 7s. 7d. while Speed makes them 154l. 4s. 9d. Tanner says it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Williams. Leland mentions, among other privileges, that this abbey possessed *that of sanctuary*: in his Itinerary he calls it "*the fairest abbey of all Wales;*" but in his Collectanea he gives the decided preference to that of *Margam*. The site of the refectory, hall, chapel, and other rooms, may still be traced; and the ichnography of its once spacious and elegant chapel: spacious indeed it must have been, if, as we are told, "seven clergymen might preach in it *at the same time, without the voice of one interrupting that of another!*" These ruins stand at a distance from the public road; yet they cannot fail, by their majestic garb of antiquity, to attract the notice of the passing traveller. But much of the effect as a religious ruin, is lost by the appearance of population: numbers of poor families, belonging to the adjoining copper works, take up their abode within its walls; and the emotions of veneration, which would otherwise naturally arise in the mind, are absorbed in attention to the looks of distress, and the cries of misery.

Near the town stands Gnoll Castle, upon a commanding situation, formerly the Roman station of *Nidum*; and some of the fortifications are included in the park. It is an elegant modern structure, lately belonging to the Mackworth family, but transferred by marriage to that of Henbury Lee. Glyn and Gwm Nedd were formerly celebrated for their romantic beauties: but the opening of collieries,

erecting forges and smelting houses, and numerous other works of Vulcan, have driven the Naiads and Dryads from their pleasing retreats. A canal runs through the vale to *Furno Vaughan*, and is now being extended from Neath to Briton Ferry : this accompanying the river at a small distance, from the deadness of its waters, and the formality of its line, abridges considerably the beauty of the vale. Yet we could not justly regret this intrusion of art, when we were informed that, previous to this work, the mines of iron, lead, coal, &c. with which this country abounds, were very partially worked, and little productive to their respective proprietors. From the great difficulty, and consequent expence, of land carriage for such ponderous articles, in a country where draft is impeded by a recurrence of hills, a conveyance by water to a market was necessary to render profitable what before was useless, or of small value. The transportation being easy, the consumption will be increased ; and improvements thus gradually extended to the interior parts of the country. The various works of coal, iron, copper, vitriol, alum, &c. while they increase the capital of the country, afford employment to the numerous poor : in *such cases* the *public*, as well as *private*, advantages of canals are demonstrably evident. Yet I am still of opinion, that the time will come when our posterity will smile at the plan of making an artificial river by the side of a natural one ; and the more rational scheme be adopted, of rendering those which Nature has made, fit for all the purposes of inland navigation.

Near Neath is the small neat church of Cadoxton, or St. Cadoc's Town, where, over a monument, is a very singular epitaph : it is no less than *the whole pedi-*

gree of the family of Williams ; and, as it exhibits in a strong point of view the vanity which too often accompanies greatness, and the prevalent folly of which the Welsh are reproached, I will present you with a copy. “As long as a Welsh pedigree” is an old proverb ; and as a specimen take the following, engraved on sheets of copper in this church :

“Waiting for the second coming of our blessed Saviour, lieth Llewelyn Williams, of Dyffryn in this parish, Gent. whose soul departed this life the 11th day of Dec. 1625 : and his body is interred with several of his ancestors in this church. He was, by paternal descent in issue male, son in the tenth degree to Rees, the son of Jestyn ap Gwrgan, the last Prince and Lord of Glamorgan of British blood. And by his maternal descent in issue male, he was son in the like degree to Prince Conan, the son of Jago, King of North, Wales, by Ranulph, the daughter of Alfred, King of Dublin. His wife was Gwladis, the daughter of Evan ap William Sir Howel Goch, by his wife Mault Cadogan ; by whom he had seven sons and four daughters, from whom are descended a numerous issue, now living in this parish and county, and in Monmouthshire and Caermarthenshire. All his sons, except the eldest, took *his* christian for *their* surname, according to the old British and Welsh method.*

“Here also lieth the body of William Williams, eldest son of the said Llewelyn and Gwladis, who departed this life the 14th day of August, 1643. His wife was Bridget, daughter of Lewis Evans, of Montgomeryshire, Esq.

* Vide Remark—Tour in North Wales.

“ And also lieth the body of Charles Williams, eldest son of the said William and Bridget, who died the 29th day of March, 1639. His wife was Joan, daughter of Sir Edward Aubrey, knight, by dame Jane, his wife, daughter and heir to William Havard, of Tre’ Domin, Esq.

“ And also lieth the body of Phillip Williams, Esq. second son of the said William, who died the 24th day of April, 1658. He was first married to Margaret, daughter of David Powell of Landow, Gent. by Anne, the daughter of Lupon Evans, of Neath, Esq. by Margaret his wife, sister to Sir William Herbert, secretary of state to Queen Elizabeth; and by the said Margaret had William Williams, who died the 31st of January 1668, and lieth buried here.

“ The second wife of the said Phillip, was Rose, daughter to Morgan Cradock, of Cheriton, Esq. by Anne his wife, daughter of William Prichard, of Caerwent, Esq. by his wife Jane, the daughter of Sir Thomas Stradling, of St. Donat’s, Knight; by his wife dame Catharine, the daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight, lord of Coyty, by dame Margaret his wife, daughter to Sir John St. John, Knight; by whom he had issue Phillip Williams, now living, anno 1707, *at whose charge this inscription is now revived.*

“ And here also lieth the body of the said Rose, wife of the said Phillip, who departed this life the 24th day of March, 1680. She was, by her said mother, descended from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, king of Castile and Leon, and son to King Edward III. king of England.

“ The said Morgan Cradock, father of the said Rose, was descended, in issue male, from the valiant

Craddock, well known in antiquity by the name of *Craddock the puissant and strong*; and by female extraction from the family of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, Knight of the Garter, and the Mansells; then of Scurllidge, Penrhys, and Oxwich castles, now of Margam.

“ Another descendant of the said *Craddock the strong*, was Sir Matthew Craddock, who lies interred in the Craddock's aisle, in the church of Swansea. This Sir Matthew was grandfather to Sir George Herbert, the first sheriff of Glamorgan; and to *Black Will*, the first Earl of Pembroke of the family now in being. The estate of the first Sir Matthew is now enjoyed by Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, and by the family of the Herberts, descended to them by a daughter of the said Sir Matthew.

“ The above-mentioned Jestin ap Gwrgan was prince and lord of Glamorgan, and Margannwg, and Gwentland, in the time of William Rufus, King of England; and was wrongfully and treacherously (by Sir Robert Fitz-Hammond, and the twelve Norman knights, whom Prince Jestin had retained in his service to fight against his enemies, and who came into England with William the Conqueror) dispossessed of his ancient paternal inheritance, the castle of Cardiff, where he then kept his court; and of *twelve other castles* in this county, with all the lands thereunto belonging; besides the castle and lordship of Sepghenith, or Cairfilly, which Egnon ap Colwyn, who after the base action was called Eynon Tradwr, or Eynon the treacherous, for combining with the said strangers to betray the prince that had generously relieved him in his distress, took to his own share, and, by the assistance of the said Normans,

possessed himself thereof. Prince Jestyn was lineally descended in issue male, by his ancestors Morgan Hên or Wlwyn Fawr, who married the daughter of Rodric the Great, King of all Wales, and by Ithel, King of Gwent and Morgannwy, from Brennus, who as some say, conquered Rome or Bran Fondigard, ancestor to Coelus or Cael Bodibog, king of Britain, father to Helena or Elen Weddog, mother to Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor. His wife, or princess, the mother of the said Sir Rhys, was daughter to Elhestan or *Elistan Clod Rhydd*, prince of Terlex (*perhaps Trelech*) and lord of the lands between the Wye and Severn; descended from Casnar Wledig, the son of Leith or Leid, the son of Belimaur, or Belinus the Great, king of Britain. And his mother was Ancreda or Angharad, daughter to Ednowin, prince of Teyengl.

“ The said son of Hammond and his twelve Norman followers, hereafter named, took to themselves, as aforesaid, the castles and manors following: himself, as chief of them, took the castle of Cardiff; Richard de Granvilli, Neath; William de Londres, Ogmore; Paganus de Tuberville, Coyty; Robert de Quintin, Llanblethian; Richard de Syward, Tal-yfan; Gilbert de Humphreville, Penniarck; Reginald de Sully, the castle of Sully; Roger de Berkralles, East Orchard; Peter le Soor, Peterston upon Ely; John le Flemming, that of St. George; Oliver St. John, Fonmon; and William de Easterling, that of St. Donat's.

“ The above-mentioned Sir Howel Gwch was ancestor, in the male line, to Sir Robert Thomas, late of Llanmianyl in this county, Baronet; and son in the eighth degree to Cradock, eldest son of the said

Prince Jestyn, by his second ventre of the said princes. The said Sir Howel was also ancestor to Judge Jenkins of Hensol, by his mother, sister to the above-mentioned Gwladys.

“ Here also lieth the body of the above-mentioned Phillip Williams, Esq. who departed this life, the 6th day of November, 1717 !”

A strong inclination possesses the bosom of the Welsh to preserve their descents, and an assiduous care not to lose the memory of their ancestors, which they certainly derive from great antiquity. In this they follow the custom of the Hebrews : and did we not discover a sufficient cause for this attention, in the law of Gavel-kind, where, from collateral heritage, the ascertaining the right of property must be more difficult than the more regular descents in the English code : I should be inclined to urge this as a cogent reason for supposing them an early colony from that original people. Were it not the custom to abuse the Welsh, and scarcely allowable to make comparisons that reflect on our own pride and vanity, we might discover the same foible in others : perhaps in ourselves. It may have been carried amongst the Welsh to an extent that bespeaks an excess of family vanity :* for, as a shrewd historian has observed, “ A Welsh gentleman will climb up by the ladder of his pedigree into princely extraction ; and that it may be said, Men are *made heralds in other countries*, but *born so in Wales*. But a long pedigree ought to have broad possessions, that a sympathy might ap-

* The number of Welsh pedigrees registered in the herald's office is :—Clarenceux side . . . 6550
Norroy ditto . . . 1223

Total, 7773

pear between the extraction and the estate." Otherwise it has been a custom *not exclusively peculiar to the Welsh*; since it has been practised both by ancient and modern nations. The *Saxon* genealogists trace the pedigree of King Ethelwulph up to Adam, according to Matthew of Westminster, who in like manner derives the descent of Offa a king of Mercia. This surely must be esteemed the ne plus ultra of family distinctions.

The direction of the vale of Nedd is dissimilar to most others in this part of the kingdom; for miles it is nearly rectilinear; consequently a considerable portion, both above and below, may be seen at once. But still, whether you look up or down, the prospect is widely different. To the south the various manufactories, agents, and workmen's houses; vessels going out and coming in, the æstuary opening through the woods produce a cheerful variety in the coup d'œil; while turning to the north, the eye is charmed with verdant slopes, craggy rocks, and crystal streams diversified by here and there a cultivated farm, or rustic cottage. The tumult and noise of engines and hammers is succeeded by the sounds of rapid streams issuing down the collateral cwms, or the roaring of distant waterfalls, that pour, in angry foam, their waters to the Nedd. Passing the considerable falls of the Dylis, and the Cledaugh, with various mines of coal and iron, the vale assumes a wilder aspect, rocks and precipices take place of woods and meads, and the hills assume the character of mountains. A dark looking rock called *Craig y Llyn* arose in sullen grandeur to the right; and a little to the north-east of it is a lake of about half a mile in length, and one third in breadth, called *Llyn*

y dwr : and immediately the small village of *Pont Ned Vychan* greets the eye of the inquisitive traveller. Near this place, on the banks of the Nedd, are some curious intrenchments on each side the river, a mile in length, and about half a mile in breadth. They consist of high walls or banks running parallel with the river, and within are accompanied by mounds of earth, and stones of different sizes, on the average from two to four yards long, one yard to two in width, and one high. Agriculture has infringed upon some of them, but those remaining are still numerous. It has been conjectured that this must have been a Roman encampment, and a Roman road called *Sarn Helen*, a few miles off, has been adduced as justifying such a conjecture. But there are no traces of that people near, and these works are in a very different style to all the Roman fortifications I have ever surveyed. They are evidently British, being like several others in Wales, particularly those near Corwen in Denbighshire, occupied by the Welsh forces when they opposed those of King Henry II. encamped on the Berwyn; probably a British entrenched camp to defend this pass to the interior, after the country to the south was in possession of the Anglo-Normans. Descending into the vale, which now becomes interesting from the beauty and grandeur of its scenery, the cataract of *Scatenogam*, or more properly *Ysgwd Eineon Gam*, salutes you : the fall of the river Purdden, one of those numerous streams with which the valley of Neath abounds. It is distant from *Pont Neath-vychan* about a mile and a half, and is approached by a difficult path, down a steep declivity through brushwood and brambles, till you arrive at the foot of a dark perpendicular rock. ▲

chasm presents itself in front of this, through which the river precipitates itself over a ledge of rock full eighty feet into the pool beneath. The verdure of the wooded glen above the fall, contrasted with the bare rocks in the vicinity, contribute to heighten the effects of the scene. A short distance from this is another of inferior magnitude, called the Ladies Cascade: but as there is scarcely a stream but what has one or more to boast of, you will be desirous to hear of those only the most singular and worthy of observation. Three miles to the northward, the varied noise of numerous falls reminds you, that you are not far from the admired ones of the Hepste. The one called the Lower Hepste-fall is a little above the truly picturesque spot, where the rivers Hepste and Fildda join. The character of this stupendous cataract differs widely from the one of Scotenogam: the river, after rains, swells into a mighty torrent, which divided and impeded in its descent by lofty projecting rocks, dashes its perturbed waters upon detached fragments strewed in the glen beneath, and mantling into tumultuous foam, bedews the adjacent hills with the spray.

A quarter of a mile above is the upper Hepste-fall,* which from the singular attendant circumstances may vie with the celebrated falls amidst the Alps or Apennines. It is formed by the whole river Hepste flowing in one broad expanse of water, forty feet wide, over an even ledge of rock about sixty feet high. It precipitates itself with such projectile force, as to leave a considerable space between the perpen-

* Both these are called Cul-Hepste from Cul a Welsh word, signifying *contractedness*, as the river is in both these places by the adjacent rocks.

dicular rock and the pool beneath: this aqueous arch is a common path for men and cattle, who find a nearer cut by this extraordinary road to the neighbouring villages. Passing over the hill that separates the vale of the Feldda from that of the Hepste, you discover another fall of equal magnificence, but of a very different feature. The bed of the Feldda is divided by a rock into two unequal parts: the one collecting itself into a narrow compass, rolls gradually down a declivous bed in murmuring leisure. While the other part, meeting with a ledge, falls perpendicularly more than forty feet, and expands itself into a sheet of near a hundred feet broad; and rushing into the pool beneath, struggles in angry roar, amidst enormous fragments of rocks, till it rejoins its partner in the distant glen. Where, as if it were determined to assume the most grotesque shapes, and astonish by its singularity as well as grandeur, it rushes with great violence through a fissure in a rock, that shuts in the vale called *Porth Ogo*, and suddenly disappears. Here, like the classical Alpheus,* it takes a subterraneous course, bids a temporary adieu to day, and leaves the beholder in silent admiration. How far it thus secretly flows you are prevented from ascertaining. The guide informs you that he has penetrated more than half a mile, but found the various windings so numerous, that he judged it prudent to return, lest, if he proceeded further, he should share the fate of a man, who was lost for the space of

* The chief fountain of the river Jordan lost itself underground, sinking at Phiale, and emerging at Paneas. And the Cefiso in Achaia, flows through a cave similar to this, and rising a few miles distant, flows into the *Ægean* sea:—vid Strabo.

three days, and when found, nearly exhausted with fatigue and hunger.

In a narrow cwm, through which flows the small river *Dynnas*, is a curious phenomenon in geology, called *Bwa Maen*, or the *Curved Rock*. * The surrounding scenery consists of high calcareous rocks, covered in many places with verdure, shrubs, and forest trees; and the more elevated parts affording shelter to ravens, daws, herons, and other birds, fond of inaccessible situations. From this general line, a single rock, about one hundred feet in height, and eighty in breadth, protrudes itself, in which the stratification differs from those adjoining. The strata of *those* vary from horizontal to vertical, through all the intermediate angles of inclination; but in *this*, they take different dips, so as to assume an appearance like a magnificent Gothic arch. The strata for a few yards preserve the same inclination as they recede from the front, till again assuming the horizontal shape the whole is closed. These rocks, at the foot of which the *Dynnas* flows, consist of that species of stones called *Marble Lime*, composed of calcareous earth, bitumen, and a small portion of iron; and when polished are of a dove dark grey, or black colour, as the bitumen more or less abounds. This is conveyed to London, and sold from twelve to twenty shillings the square foot.

The sea being out, we proceeded over the sands, under the Kilvay hill, and ferrying over the Tawy, entered the town of Swansea; the faculties more awake when abroad, circumstances strike, which

* There is a remarkable arched rock like this with similar strata above it, near High Methop, in the county of Westmorland.

perhaps would pass unnoticed at home. In the street our attention was called by a shrill voice, an octave higher than is usual on such occasions, delivering a story of considerable length. Hastening to the spot, we found it was the *crier of the town*, a female, announcing to the public the arrival of a cargo of goods, which were then selling on the quay for ready money. Whether this appointment was made in compliment to the sex, or the Corporation might think the office would be more ably filled, I know not, but the circumstance of a *herault femelle* did not fail to excite the risibility of the party.

Situated in a most charming bay, in an angle between two hills on the north-western bank of the river Tawy, the town is defended from the chilling blasts; and the south wind coming over an expanse of water renders the air mild; and the soil for the most part sand or gravel, the place must naturally be congenial to health. It is called by the Welsh *Aber Tawy*. Its present name is derived, according to Camden, from the number of porpoises frequenting the bay, as if *Swein* or *Swine-sea*. By others, from the smoothness of the waters in the bay, as if *Swan-sea*. Might I hazard a conjecture, I should suppose it formerly called *Swang-sea*, from *Swang* an old word signifying *a green sand or marsh*, sometimes overflowed; and the traces that the present bay was once a wood, numbers of stools of large trees being yet visible, would lead to such a conjecture. Its origin is buried in equal doubt and obscurity. The remains of its castle, one part of which is fitted up for debtors, and the other used as a house of industry, is said to have been erected by Henry Beaumont, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of King Henry I. who

also fortified the town. The remains are a few old walls, and one massy tower with a curious parapet of Gothic arches at top, similar to that of *Lantphey*. Part of the ruins of an abbey have been taken down, to open a communication between Goat-street and Castle Bailey. These were now fitted up by some emigrant French priests, as a catholic chapel. It was an hospital founded by Henry de Gower, bishop of St. David's, A. D. 1332, and dedicated to St. David; valued 26th of Henry VIII. at 20l. per annum, by Dugdale and Speed, both of whom call it *Swansea Guardianatus*; which induced Tanner to style it an hospital of the Knight Templars.*

The town is a borough, the corporation consisting of a portreeve, recorder, twelve aldermen, two chamberlains, and an unlimited number of burgesses. It is well built, and has an increasing population of more than seven thousand people: and from the spaciousness of its streets, the appearance of the buildings, and the beauty of its situation, may be considered as the first town in South Wales. Though long a place of some shipping trade, yet within the last twenty years it has increased in its commercial importance with almost unexampled rapidity; as will appear from the entries at the Custom House for that period. The number of vessels that cleared out in 1768 was 694, consisting of 30,681 tons.

* The right hand side of Castle Bailey is a rule, as it is termed; or an extent for debtors, similar to the Fleet and King's Bench in London. Thus privileged, the houses in this part of the town let at high rents. This is said to have arisen out of the suppressed privilege of *sanctuary*; but more probably from the *military tenure of the castle*, and the powers usually annexed to such places.

In 1798, 2021, consisting of 120,713 tons; and in 1800, the supposed number was 3000, consisting of about 200,000 tons. The trade is principally with London, the coasts of Devon and Cornwall, Bristol, Ireland and the Baltic. An attempt was made by some spirited individuals to come in for a share of the West India traffic; but not being supported by those interested in the scheme, it proved abortive, and is now totally relinquished. There were some so sanguine on the occasion, as to suppose, that in a few years it would have become a successful rival to the port of Bristol. But such might have been justly asked, if they *ever calculated?* The water is not sufficiently deep on the bar, except at high spring tides, to admit ships of tonnage adequate to such a trade. And if they employed small vessels in it, the proportion of hands must be comparatively too great for the tonnage; then where would the advantage of freight exist? Not to mention, that most of the articles which arrive at Bristol from that quarter, are the produce of estates, whose fee-simple is in the hands of the merchants. Then look at the local advantages of Bristol; situated near the confluence of two navigable rivers, which open to *her* the very heart of the kingdom; and by the easy conveyance of both exports and imports, the grand mart of the kingdom is decidedly fixed there: and it must be her own fault if any other port outrival her, or even arrive at a respectable state of competition.

Under an act obtained for the purpose, the port of Swansea has received considerable improvement; but much remains to be done to complete the original plan. Various powers are vested in the hands

of trustees, enabling them to raise 12000*l.* by a tax on vessels passing the bar. Regular pilots have been appointed, a light-house erected on the Mumbles Head ; and a pier built on the north western side of the river, and another about being built on the opposite side, for the purpose of increasing the depth of water on the bar ; and to extend the capacity of the harbour, leaving only a passage between the Burrows and Salthouse point of seventy yards. What has already been done, and the money that has been expended, proves how inadequate a sum 12000*l.* was to answer so extensive a scheme. Another application has been made to parliament for an extension of powers, and to enable the trustees to raise contributions on vessels passing the Nash Point, and down Channel, for the support of the light-house. This plan of improvement was suggested by a Captain Huddart, and when completed will doubtless afford very great advantages to the place. At present, the spring tides give about thirteen feet water on the bar ; and a brig of 190 tons burthen is called the *Commodore of the port*. The Tawey is navigable only for two miles above bar, on the banks of which are convenient quays, and slips for the shipping and unshipping of goods ; and this part of the river is what is termed the *harbour of Swansea*. The imports consist of tallow, hides, cattle, bacon, &c. from Ireland ; tin, clay, and copper ore from Cornwall ; grocery, bale goods, and utensils from Bristol ; its exports, of coal, culm, lime, iron, copper, rotten stone, and earthen ware. The conveyance of these ponderous articles is facilitated by means of a canal on the western bank of the Tawey, accompanying it to Hennyoeedd in Brecknockshire and a shorter cut,

private property, on the eastern bank, extending to *Meath*. The stone coals of this country are of a peculiar nature. In burning, they cast a great heat, with little light, and scarcely any perceptible smoke. When ignited they are easily extinguished, having less bitumen in their composition than those of other countries. For the parlour they are not desirable, but for the purposes of drying malt, hops, &c. they are highly valuable. The demand for these, from the opposite coast of England, and also Ireland, is much greater than the supply; as those places are served at a reasonable rate from the great advantage of back freights. They are sold by the weigh of 6 chaldrons, or 216 bushels (*about ten tons*,) and delivered on the quay at the moderate price of two pounds nine shillings *per weigh*. Those that are carried round the Land's-end to Cornwall, are there sold for 2l. 12s. the Cornish weigh of two chaldrons, subject to a rider of five shillings and sixpence duty. A drawback of five per cent. is however allowed on all that are purchased for the *use of the mines*. *Culm** which is used by smiths and lime burners, is sold considerably cheaper; usually from thirty to forty shillings the weigh, according to the quality. On each there is an allowance of sixpence per ton, as a gratuity to the master of the vessel. The largest colliery is at *Pentre*, the property of Mr. Morris of Clasmont. The whole hill is full of coal, and is obtained by what miners term open audits, i. e. horizontal shafts driven into the hill, which form

* *Culm* consists of the shiverings of the coal generally found in the extremity of the veins, which ramify and diminish in size, like the branches of a tree. This is the case of all minerals dipping in an inclination from east to west.

levels for draining the work, as well as ways for the delivery of the coal. There are within, some vertical shafts, beneath these levels, and whimsies have given way to a more philosophical and expeditious machine, the improved steam engine of Bolton and Watt. One of these audits, which we traced about a mile in length, admits low waggons, holding a chaldron each, which running on an iron railway, one horse with ease delivers at the quay. Swansea has to boast of few public or elegant buildings; the old ruinous market-house in the centre of one of its principal streets, is a disgrace to the place. The church is however a handsome structure. Here are several places of worship for various denominations of dissenters; here are also a free-school and a theatre. Near the river is an iron work, belonging to Mr. Ruby, having a large overshot wheel, more than forty feet in diameter. To this was attached a foundery, now removed to Llanelly. A large pottery on the plan of Wedgwood's is in a flourishing condition, under the auspices of the ingenious Mr. Haynes: and an extensive brewery furnishes beer for home consumption and exportation. But the prodigious manufactories of copper, brass, and spelter, erected on the banks of the river, contribute largely to support the rising importance of this place. There are eight large houses in the immediate vicinity. 1st. Brass wire work, by Hurford and Co. 2d. Belonging to the Birmingham Mining Company. 3d. To the Birmingham Rose Company. 4th. To Mr. Morris of Clasmont. 5th. To Messrs. Williams and Hughes. 6th. To Freeman and Company. 7th. To Mr. Williams. 8th. To Roe and Co. It having been found more advantageous to

bring the ore to the coal, than take the coal to the ore, which is brought from Cornwall here for the purpose of smelting; the annual quantity imported is estimated at 60,000 tons, which produce about 6000 tons of pure copper; the Cornish ore being so rich, as to average one-tenth part metal.* The best ores are those which contain the greatest portion of sulphur; and those which contain the largest portion of iron, the worst. The grand secret of smelting consists in disengaging the greatest quantity of copper from the ore, at the least expense, which is done by mixing ores of very different qualities together in such proportions as that the one shall furnish a flux for the other. Thus a large portion of sulphur in one, will form an affinity with the iron of another; and the copper consequently be disengaged from both: a great part of which, without this precaution, would be retained in the slag. The ore before it is reduced to merchantable copper, undergoes various processes. It has undergone that of stamping and washing before it is shipped. Here first having been mixed in due proportions, it is placed in a reverberatory furnace, heated to a degree sufficient to throw off a portion of its sulphur. It is then removed to another called a *calciner*, and subjected to a greater degree of heat; which volatilizes more of its sulphur, and the arsenic it may contain. The disengagement of the latter becomes evident by the strong smell of *garlic* perceivable in the atmosphere. It is then exposed to a still greater heat, which disengages either of the above substances,

* That of Paris Mountain in Anglesea averages seldom more than 3 per cent; and also requires several months roasting, to get rid of its various combinations.

that may be in more intimate combination; and which are not neutralized by other substances. It is then thrown into the *ore furnace*, and reduced to a *regulus* or metallic mass, composed of *copper* in union with *tin and iron*. This is the first metallic state, and it is run in moulds of sifted sand. The refuse is termed *slag*, containing some copper, with an heterogeneous mixture of earth and metal. This is broken for examination, and the most valuable re-smelted. * The regulus is then placed in the *metal furnace*, and the slag taken off with ladles, as it successively rises to the surface; while the iron and tin become disengaged, and subside at the bottom of the furnace. From the metal furnace it is conveyed into flat oblong moulds, and cast into cakes or tiles: in which state it is sent to market for general use. But for particular purposes, it undergoes a still further refining process. It is covered with charcoal powder, and re-smelted, being kept stirred the while with *birch tree pales or poles*. Whether the charcoal be the cause, or the vegetable acid from the wood communicates any new principle, I have not been able to learn; but it certainly undergoes an alteration by this process, acquiring a property of softness and ductility. It is then run through perforated iron pans, and cast into *bean shot*, for the use of the brass wire makers; or made rugged by dropping the melted metal in water, for better uniting with calamine, in the manufacturing of

* A work was erected in the vicinity of Neath for further disengaging the remaining copper from the slag; but it was quickly discovered, that the quantity gained was very inadequate to the expense incurred.

brass. The number of hands employed in these works is upwards of a thousand; and as some of the processes require several days attendance each, the men are under the necessity of working, as in glass houses, by watches: sleeping or resting six hours, and working six. But the wages are not sufficient for the great fatigue and unhealthiness of this employment. The houses of persons employed in these, and the adjacent collieries form a considerable and populous place, called from the chief proprietor *Morrice Town*.

I am apprehensive in thus detailing the description of these Cyclopean operations, I have forfeited with the Swanseans all pretensions to taste; and all hope of future favour. For it is the wish of the inhabitants, that Swansea should be viewed in the light of *a fashionable resort*, rather than as a *trading town*; and a bathing place, rather than a sea-port. Numerous houses are fitted up as lodgings for those disposed to visit this maritime spot, and some in the Burrows* are neat and pleasant; commanding a view both of the river and bay. But the distance from the only situation eligible for the machines being more than a mile, renders these inconvenient for *valetudinarians*. The corporation, therefore, were induced to erect a large building near the spot, for the further accommodation of the delicate, called the *bathing house*. The view from hence in-

* This was a beautiful lawn with gravel walks, laid out at the public expense. But in November 1795, a high spring tide came in with a south-west wind, inundated this part entirely; and threatened to drown all the lower part of the town. Since that the stones and gravel left by the retiring waters have never been removed.

cludes the bay and parts of the surrounding country: and the assembly room forms a pleasing promenade for the company at the house, in unfavourable weather. The price of lodgings, terms of bathing, fees for guides, &c. are under the regulation of a committee, appointed by the corporation. Price of bathing, two hours before and two hours after high water, 9d.; guide, 6d. At every other state of tide, 1s., and 6d. the guide. Board at the public table, with one sleeping room, 25s. per week each person; and if a private parlour is required, 10s. 6d. addition for the same. The company at times are numerous and genteel.

You will now suppose I am got into a fashionable place like Weymouth, surrounded by the blandishments of gaiety and pleasure: but descriptions sometimes lead to wrong estimates. If we enter into a comparison between this place and the favourite spot of the royal family, it must be made by a list of *negatives*. No hot rolls and delicate pats of butter salute you in the morning; no crabs, lobsters, prawns, and other delicious fish, at dinner; no gentle airings to Wick and Upway; no parties to the romantic beauties of Lulworth Cove; no aquatic excursions, to hear the beautiful effect of music on the water, while the royal band is playing on the Esplanade; no public breakfasts, and dancing to the sound of pipe and tabor, on the green; no regattas or frequent military reviews; no balls on board frigates, and dining on board men of war. In short, after stating that there is a tolerable sandy beach, machines indifferently kept, dressing rooms for the sick, and lodgings for those in health, the rest must be imagined not experienced. No horses, no car-

riages, no pleasure-boats ;* nor a single accommodation proper for the convalescent, or desirable for the robust. A total inattention to the comforts and conveniences of the company is manifest in those most interested in the concern ; and a perfect apathy to the manifold blessings procurable by exertion too evidently exists among the inhabitants of Swansea. As a proof of the former, amidst numerous instances that might be adduced, is the path you have to descend from the bathing-house to the machines : which is over a ridge of loose limestone pebbles, thrown up like a wall at the inundation before-mentioned ; and which to ladies is so formidable, as often to induce them to go a mile round, rather than encounter the difficulties of a short space. A few days' labour of one man would remove this inconvenience. As a proof of the latter, I need only mention, that the bay round the Mumbles Head, and the proximate bays, abound with all sorts of fish ; yet Swansea is worse supplied than perhaps almost any *inland town*, of its size, in the kingdom.

A great objection against this place for bathing is the flatness of the shore, rendering it very inconvenient to bathe, but near two hours flood and ebb. This defect has been in a degree supplied, by the public spirit of Messrs. Coles and Haynes, of the Cambrian Pottery, who have erected in the lower part of the town, near their manufactory, two hot and cold sea-water baths, by means of conduits

* You may sometimes, by great exertion and persuasion, induce the idle fellows, as a particular favour, to go out. But such is their fear, that they never venture far ; and such their unskilfulness, that more than one instance has occurred of the party being swamped.

through the quay walls; and well constructed pumps have been added for partial or shower bathing, as at Bath. To obviate any objection from an idea that the water of the river might not be so good as in the bay, it appears from an analysis, that at high water *it contains an equal portion of salt with the same quantity taken up at the pier head.** The terms of bathing in the cold bath are; with a fire in the dressing room, 1s. 3d; without fire, 1s.; guide, 6d. In the warm bath, with fire, 3s.; without, 2s.; guide, 6d. These have afforded additional accommodations for the invalid; but the distant part of the town in which they are situated, renders them much less eligible than if they had been made between the bathing-house and the pier head. Since these improvements have taken place, Swansea has been pronounced, by some of the resident faculty, the most complete bathing place in the kingdom: but whether this is not a more interested than accurate account, I leave for decision to those who may have opportunities of ascertaining the fact. The volumes of smoke from the different manufactories contribute to make Swansea, if not an unwholesome, a very disagreeable place of residence. It quite changes the face of the country: vegetation forsakes the surrounding hills, for a more genial atmosphere; and the scene

* This is stated upon the authority of some medical gentlemen of the place, who published the above opinion. But when it is considered, that there is always a body of fresh water coming down the river, here very narrow, and that at times it may be almost equal to the opposing tide, common sense might decide the question, without having recourse to analysis: unless these arch chemists can prove, that fresh and salt water cannot intermix.

of barrenness, for miles in the exposed direction, evidently declares how deleterious the effects are to vegetable life. But how far the analogy bears with *animated* nature, has not been discovered. I have been informed, by judicious persons resident here, that these effluvia are seldom known to be injurious, even to the persons immediately employed; and that cases have occurred, where some in ill-health, particularly *pulmonary* patients, have received very essential benefit from breathing this atmosphere. We were shewn a man in apparent good health, who, previous to his engaging in this employ, had a confirmed phthisis; and being persuaded that breathing this air would be beneficial, he obtained leave to do what he could, and in consequence recovered. The gasses disengaged are those of sulphur, arsenic, and volatilized sulphat of copper: and in a complaint, that under all systems of medicine, has proved an *opprobrium medicorum*, surely it is worth enquiry, how far the inhaling these gaseous substances, either singly or combined, or disengaging them in the stomach, may tend to eradicate the cause of such complaints or alleviate their symptoms. The external use of *sulphat of copper* has performed wonders in *ill-conditioned ulcers*; and I have witnessed instances, in the neighbourhood, of *conglobate glands*, which have been pronounced incurable, speedily and permanently healed by this simple application, in conjunction with the common dressings. How this is effected, whether from the astringent nature of this substance contracting the orifices of the lymphatics, or by its stimulus superinducing a retrograde action, may become a subject for the inquisitive physiologist. The facts I relate, and an analogical

investigation, might prove beneficial to the science of medicine, and the cause of suffering humanity.

The Bay of Swansea is a most delightful object, whether you view it towards the sea, or take your station in a boat at the entrance of it. The back ground is highly gratifying to the eye of Taste. It has been compared to the Bay of Naples, and the comparison to those who have seen both, must be striking. The smoke from the different manufactories, which at night appear so many distinct scenes of smoke and flame, give you an idea of the Sol-fateras in the vicinity of Vesuvius. The number of vessels tacking about the bay, as they go out or come in at the different states of tide, form a pleasing and lively picture. We traversed the vicinity in quest of plants, and added a few to our list.* De-coyed by the favourite pursuit to a protracted state of the evening, we sauntered over the sands, disposed to enjoy the pleasures arising from a calm summer's evening, amidst such diversified scenery. The sun's beams from the water were highly glowing, and the sea assumed a beautiful vitreous appearance. When I approach the coast, I feel an enthusiasm that rivets me to the spot: the sun, now setting, removed his enchanting rays from the sea, and painted the distant horizon with the most glorious tints; the azure sky was bounded by the opposite coasts of England; and the vessels in the Chan-

* Amongst others we found *cheiranthus sinuatus*, *arenaria peploides*, *rosa spinosissima*, *rosa burgundica*, *crithmum maritimum*, *menyanthes trifoliata*, *geranium cicutarium*, *verbena officinalis*, *sisimbrium petræum*, *papaver cambricum*, *reseda luteola*, *reseda lutea*, *reseda phytarima*, *chelidonium glaucium*; and in a fresh water pond, between Bryn Mill and the sea, the beautiful *nymphæa alba*.

nel made a lively variation in the scene. I gazed with admiration, till the surrounding views, gradually diminishing in the sight, were at length lost in the blue mists of night; and darkness reminded us it was time to retire. The absence of the all-cheering orb of day, and the noise of the fluctuating waves, rendered the mind sedate, and disposed it for contemplation. The swelling sails of two large outward bound West Indiamen, were now the only visible objects; and the eye and mind became solely fixed on these: they reminded us of parting friends, and the various and unavoidable occasions of such unwelcome separations. Perhaps, said I, some parent looks with lingering longing eye towards a favourite child, embarked on the uncertain ocean; some affectionate wife regrets the loss of the friend of her bosom; some sister weeps for the departure of a much-loved brother to the distant shores. They diminish on the sight; they fast recede from the view. They are now vanished; perhaps never to greet again the friends they have so lately bade a hopeful adieu! Alas! said I, just and impressive emblem of the changes and chances of this uncertain state:

“ Yon setting sun has just withdrawn his light,
 And paints, with varying tints, the mountain's verge;
 The distant landscape lessens on the sight,
 While evening's breezes swell the rising surge.
 The hum of busy men I distant hear;
 The sea gull cries, while hovering o'er her nest;
 And ocean's billows, harshly roaring near,
 Dispose this weary wandering heart to rest.
 The mind reflective oft at parting day
 Collects its scattered thoughts, too wont to roam;
 Fatigued with scenes, that charm'd when young and gay,
 It fondly turns its devious steps tow'rd's home.

Behold yon vessel spread her swelling sails,
The tide, fast ebbing, eager quits the shore,
Buoy'd with the prospect of propitious gales
And golden hopes ; alas ! returns no more !
Thus youth embarks on life's disast'rous tide,
Full flush'd with hope of pleasure's cup to share,
Blind to the latent rocks these waters hide,
Which wreck his bark, and drown him in despair.
So late did I this changing scene survey,
Beheld with unconcern the vision move ;
Saw numerous flow'rets open and decay,
All kindly meant my folly to reprove :
But warn'd by other's loss, aghast I stood,
Aw'd by the retrospect, my steps re-trod ;
And anxious sought the path that leads to good,
Which soon I found was, ' Know thyself and God.'
I am ever Yours, J. E.

LETTER VII.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING indulged ourselves for some time with the mixed company that frequent these places of resort, we traversed the peninsula of Gower : so called from Gwyr, recurvus, or crooked. It is connected to the main by a narrow irregular isthmus, ending in the promontory of the Mumble Head. We proceeded along the western side of Swansea Bay, passing the pleasant rural residences of Marino, Upper and Lower Skitty, &c. till we came to the small village of Oystermouth, situate upon the shore, and principally inhabited by fishermen : who, if they had spirit equal to the advantages of their situation, need not envy their more polished neigh-

bours. The sea here abounds with soles, plaice, brill, turbot, sewen, crabs, lobsters, brawns, limpets, shrimps, and other shell fish ; and the rocks with a small delicious oyster in high season, *during the summer months*, when all others are out. The castle with its ivy-mantled walls, is a fine ruin, and seen to advantage from the bay. It was built by Richard Greenville, one of the twelve knights ; and from him descended to the subsequent lords of Gower : and now forms part of the extensive possessions of the duke of Beaufort. At the termination of this peninsula, the promontory is divided into three rocks, between which the tide flows sufficiently deep, at high water, for small vessels to pass ; but it is fordable for foot passengers at ebb. On the most southerly of these is a *light house*, for the direction of vessels passing up and down channel, as well as those steering immediately for the bay. At first, the light was supported by *coal fires* ; but such was the prodigious power of the westerly winds, that the fire at times was extinguished at one sweep, and the lives of the attendants became hazardous, as well as the building. A new one has been erected upon an improved plan ; having two galleries, with an iron lantern, cast at Neath 1798, and apartments beneath for the use of the men who alternately here keep watch. The light is greatly improved, and the expense diminished, by the substitution of *Argand's lamps*, with concave plated reflectors, two feet in diameter. The number is eleven, fixed in the lantern, six above and five below : but experience has shewn, that the upper six afford sufficient illumination for the darkest night.

We passed the village of Newton* in search of a small bay called Caswel, famed for the number and beauty of the shells which the sea frequently throws up on the sands. This, which may be considered an epitome of Lulworth Cove, is formed by two towering projecting limestone rocks; and an opening descent from the hills, here thrown about in the greatest apparent disorder, conducts you to the shore. To those fond of the marvellous, this secluded spot will furnish abundant food for their imagination. The violence of the sea has produced wonderful excavations, of various shapes and dimensions: some assuming the appearance of temples, with mighty Gothic arches; and others of subterraneous passages, with a circular canopy. Here are what are denominated *demons' holes* and *giants' caves*. But the sea running in with great rapidity, put an end to our research. The limestone of these cliffs is very much like that of St. Vincent's rocks, takes a high polish, and burns into excellent lime. In this dreary spot we found a poor solitary animal, spending his strength to procure a bare existence for himself and a large family, by procuring limestone from the surrounding rocks; selling it at the low price of a shilling per ton. In this unsocial and laborious employ we learned, that he and his horse (which procured his provender on the adjacent common) were able to earn 18d. or 20d. per day. At no great distance, on the shore of the adjoining bay of Oxwich, is Penrice Castle, the seat of Mr. Talbot. The ruin stands in the back ground of an

* Between the village of Oystermouth and Newton we discovered papaver dubium; and near the Lime-kilns, the beauty of the British Flora, *gentiana pneumonanthe.

elegant modern mansion, surrounded by diversified wooded walks, laid out with great labour and expense. But the effect intended to be produced by the liberal owner seems totally destroyed by the standing comparison of the smooth lawn and placid canal with the boisterous waves and the asperities of the surrounding scenery. The different outlines are too strongly contrasted to be grateful to the eye of taste ; and the entrance through an *artificial ruin* but ill accords with the venerable walls of the ancient building.

Entering on a sandy barren down, we reached the principal object of our pursuit on this part of the coast: "*The wonder of the world on Gower.*" On a hill, four miles north of Penrice, is a large flat stone, of several tons weight, resting upon six smaller ones, about five feet high, placed in a circular form. The larger one has suffered much mutilation from the common people, who have taken portions of it for small millstones, it being a species of brescia ; and, what is not usual in similar monuments, is the same stone of which the hill is principally composed. It is called *King Arthur's stone* ; and beneath, a circumstance seldom observed, is a spring ebbing and flowing with the tide, celebrated as a *Ffynnon Vair*, or my lady's well, and resorted to for the cure of various disorders. The traditional impression which Arthur's victories made upon the Welsh, induced them to attribute every *opus et labor*, every work apparently exceeding human strength, to the supernatural power of their admired hero. But this is clearly one of the Cromlechs so frequently met with in Wales, the remains of Druidical superstition ; and the supposed virtues of the

well most probably originated in the idea, that this was an altar to the deity: and no doubt but the Saxonides, or the priests of that religion, made a religious use of its waters.

Respecting these holy wells history has been only conjecture. They abound in this superstitious country: a *Ffynnon Vair* presents itself in every district, the virtue of whose waters is highly extolled by the inhabitants; and their efficacy considered as infallible, with due faith, in the cure of almost every corporeal infirmity. These were in still higher repute during the middle ages; and their discovery and celebrity has been attributed to the superstition of catholicism, as their virtue has been ascribed to the miraculous powers of its pious votaries. But there is reason for supposing, that many of them had a more early and devoted attention paid them. The ancient Cuthites, and the Persians after them, had a great veneration for fountains and streams; a custom afterwards prevalent among other nations, particularly in Egypt, whence it migrated to Greece, Italy, and Spain. How much it prevailed among the Romans, we learn from Seneca: "*Magnorum fluviorum capita venerantur; coluntur aquarum calentium fontes, et quædam stagna, quæ vel opacitas vel immensa altitudo sacrauit.*" It was of little consequence what the nature of the water might be, if it were possessed of some peculiar quality. At Thebes in Ammonia was a fountain, said to have been cold by day and warm by night, "*κρηνη καλεῖται τῆς ἡλίου,*" and the name given to Bath, *aqua solis*, by the Romans, proves that they consecrated fountains to the same orb of day as to a venerated deity. There is abundance of testimony to prove, that the

Druids held groves and fountains sacred ; and though one species of forest trees obtained a preference to others, owing probably to the extent of shade and great durability, yet it is more than probable the name given them by Diodorus Siculus, (L. v. p. 308), when speaking of the priests of Gaul, *Saronidas*, had a much deeper allusion than to the mysterious oak. The worship of the sun was the most ancient, and the most prevailing idolatry in the world : it universally spread, and travelling along the sea coasts of Europe, from Egypt and Syria, extended itself through the inland countries. It very early, from this consideration, visited Gaul and Britain, where it was long established ; and after long resisting the attempts of the Romans to suppress it, gradually gave way to the more rational worship of the one living and true God, and the pure system of morality contained in the gospel. When you recollect what encomiums have been passed on the religious tenets of the Druids, and their import being considered almost equal to those of revelation, you will be inclined to acknowledge how little writers have known, either with respect to the doctrines or ceremonies of the Druidical worship ; how much its nature and origin have been misunderstood, and by extraneous and far-sought illustrations, wrapped in a tenfold greater obscurity. That the worship of the sun extended high in the north, is evident from *Ausonius*, who observes that it existed in his time : his relations were priests of the order, whom he highly compliments in his ode to *Attius Patera Rhetor* ; and mentions, that this worship, as *Belinus* was the *Apollo* of other nations, prevailed particularly in *Armorica*, of which country he was a native.

Now both Tacitus and Cæsar inform us, that the worship of the *Gauls* and the *Britons* was the same.* But where am I gone? I was about to describe, and I am writing a dissertation. Pardon the digression; it is a subject worthy investigation, and if pursued in a proper manner, would tend to illustrate the obscure accounts of our remote ancestors, on which the authenticity of our early history entirely depends.

A dreary tract of unproductive land brings you to some copper smelting houses, at Penolawd; and a little further, on the River Burry, is the small town of Lougher, called in Welsh Castell *Lychwyr*, which may boast of an antiquity superior to most places in the neighbourhood. It is the *Leucurum* of Antoninus; and, though differently spelt, still in pronunciation retains its British name of *Lychior*, whence the Roman was evidently derived. Here remain the ruins of a castle, long a barrier between the Anglo-Normans and the Welsh. On the demise of Henry I. Howel ap Meredith descended from the mountains with a numerous army, and fell with fury upon the English, massacring thousands; among whom were a number of persons of quality. This was considered by the Welsh as nothing more than

* As a proof that the Druidical worship was nearly allied to the Ammonian, or ancient idolatry of the east, the horrid rite of human sacrifices might be adduced, which on the first invasion of the Romans appears too clear to be denied. Some names of places seem to corroborate the same, as *Maen Mwtwg*, the altar of *Moloch*. The Amorites, we know, made even their children, for lack of other sacrifices, pass through the fire to *Moloch*.

a just retaliation for the previous outrages and cruelties committed at the instigation of the English monarch.

This is a barren and rather uninteresting district. Camden says, it was more famed for corn than for towns. Where he to see it now, he would say it is more famous for *sands* than for either. It is capable of improvement. The shore abounds with sea-weed, and large tracts of rich clay are found in the vicinity, and easily obtainable for the amelioration of the soil. But the farms are too small, and the tenants too poor, for much to be expected. The inclosures are very awkward. The sheep a mongrel black and white breed, inferior even to those of the mountains: and the cattle stunted for want of fodder, during the trying months of winter. It contains limestone, coal, and iron, and in this respect much might be done, were sufficient encouragement given to skilful and spirited miners. This country is said to have been inhabited by the sons of Bethoun, till they were driven out by Cyneddaf, a British prince, who afterwards led here a solitary and religious life, and was canonised for his piety and miracles.—(Vid. Gildas.) In the reign of Henry I. Henry Earl of Warwick * obtained a grant of the country of Gwyr, and subdued it; which, by an agreement between King Henry II. and his descendents, devolved to the

* Tanner says, Roger de Bellemont, (who must have been son of Henry I. Earl of Warwickshire, and *Father of William* the third Earl) conquered Gowerland; and founded a priory at Llangennith, in the reign of Stephen: annexing it to the abbey of St. Taurinus at Eureux in Normandy, which was dedicated to St. Kenred, and being an alien priory, was granted by King Henry the 6th. A. D. 1441, to All Souls College in Oxon.

crown. King John bestowed it upon William de Breos, to be held in capite by the service of *one Knight's fee*. It was in the possession of that family till the reign of Edward II. ; when William de Breos, having sold it in parcels to several proprietors, for the purpose of ingratiating himself with the King, wronged them all by an act of chicanery, too often practised in times when property was less secure than at present; and gave possession to the younger Spenser. This, among others, was assigned as a cause, why the nobility became so exasperated against the two Spensers; and so unadvisedly and precipitately refused allegiance to their Sovereign.—Vid. Cam. v. ii, 742. It is still a seignory enjoying peculiar privileges; the rule of Swansea being extended to the inhabitants, and gives a title to the family of Seymour, the Duke of Beaufort being Lord of Rayland, Chepstow, and Gower.

Before we cross the river, let us take a cursory retrospect of the country we have been passing. The *far-famed Vale of Glamorgan*, which from the fertility of the soil, and the comparatively high state of cultivation, has for ages been denominated *the Garden of Wales*. To this appellation it is most probably indebted to Rhys, son of Arthfael, who is said to have built many castles along the coast, and to have been in possession of a *formidable navy*; and who, though thus attentive to the defence, was no less so to the improvement of his country: obliging every person occupying lands in the Vale of Glamorgan, *to sow one half annually with corn*; and every person occupying lands in the *mountainous district* to *sow one fourth annually with corn*: and enacting, that all lands, which neither were sown with corn, nor grazed

by cattle, should be forfeited to the king; except woods and forests, whose limits were ascertained by the law. This, though an arbitrary, was a wise regulation, in times, when among the frequent evils, *famine* was not the least; and when a failure in the crops could not be supplied, as at present, from the superfluity of other countries. And such was the abundance of corn and cattle produced in consequence of it in the course of a few years, that it obtained for Glamorgan the title "*Lady of all Countries*."—(Vid. MS. T. Trucman.) Perhaps also it might formerly have been more famous for gardens than at present. For we are informed, that King Henry VIII. succeeding to the lordship of Glamorgan, granted it to William Herbert, who was very liberal to this country. He sent two men, Williams and Richards, to France and Flanders, to study horticulture, and to import choice fruit trees and *esculent vegetables*; that he might thus, in an essential point benefit his country. For during the rebellion of Owen Glendwyr, almost every production of gardens, as well as orchards, were destroyed. And though the people of this part of the country, having been peaceable and submissive to the Anglo-Norman lords, had been relieved from numerous oppressions, and many privileges granted them by the last Earl of Clare; yet seized with the phrensy of independency, they almost unanimously joined in the cause of Owen, and afterwards suffered greatly both by the loss of privileges, and confiscation of property, till they were restored to favour by Henry VII. They had, therefore, but little spirit or opportunity till that period, to pay a proper attention to the cultivation of their country.

The Vale of Glamorgan extends in length about forty miles, and from ten to twelve in breadth; sheltered from the north winds by a chain of mountains, and open to the south with the sea in front, it partakes of a twofold advantage, the genial sun, and *mild sea breeze*: and though great part of it lies on a substratum of limestone, at the depth of a few feet, yet it is highly productive under the hand of skill and industry. Such is the mildness of the air, that many shrubs and evergreens, housed in other parts, stand here our hardest winters. Myrtles may be seen in the open ground in a variety of gardens, and from its salubrity it may be considered as the Piedmont of Britain. The Vale is studded with towns, villages, gentlemen's seats, and cottages. The latter being white-washed, gives them an appearance of cleanliness and neatness, not observable in other counties.* These, contrasted with the various greens of nature's garb, are by no means ungrateful to the eye, however the custom may offend the picturesque Gilpin: (vid. Views on the Wye:) because a glare of white is not agreeable to sporting nature. But the question, here is not whether buildings in colour should be conformable to nature, or how far a glare of white may be discordant to the systematic rules laid down for *picturesque beauty, or landscape drawing*; but, whether in a prospect, abounding with habitations, those do not appear more cheerful to the eye, contrasted with the deep verdure of summer,

* So partial are the peasantry of Glamorganshire to this mode of ornamenting their cottages, that they frequently renew it every Saturday; and will not permit a stone, serving for a gate-post, or that lies on the road near the dwelling, to escape this cleanly attention.

the various greens and brown of spring and autumn, or the dark shades of winter, than the dull, and neglected hue of weather-beaten stone? I believe few, that have travelled through Wales, but will instantly acknowledge, that this external exhibition of neatness intimates cleanliness within, and that exclusive of the idea of comfort which it suggests, the appearance alone gives it a decided superiority over that of the dingy and dirty looking cottages in the adjoining counties. And he, who cannot admire this neat and salutary custom, has never yet experienced the pleasurable sensation, arising from the sight of a woodbine or a rose in blossom, against a white-washed wall.

From the description I have given you of this rich vale, you will perhaps expect, that agriculture must be carried here to an enviable height, and that the produce is more abundant than in England; but this is by no means the case. For though it contains fine arable and rich pastureland, yet the products are comparatively small. The state of husbandry is at a low ebb; and though much of late has been done by the gentlemen of the county taking estates under their own management, encouraging English farmers to reside among them, and adopting many of the recent improvements and useful implements of husbandry; still the agriculture of the country is below mediocrity. This, though one of the most necessary arts of life, has, till within these few years, by an unaccountable neglect, been paid the least attention to of any: for while we have been assiduously extending our dominions in every quarter of the globe, and increasing the demands upon our produce by an increase of our population; we have been totally in-

attentive to the question, how these demands were to be supplied, and how the multiplied wastes of luxury and prodigality were to be repaired. No wonder then, in a country a century behind our own in arts and refinement, little attention has been paid to a subject of universal neglect. Indeed, previous to the last twenty years, it is probable, that the general routine of farming in this county was very little different from the system, if system it could be called, pursued *a thousand years before*. Of all classes of men, farmers appear to be the most prejudiced, and the most tenacious of their opinions. Accustomed to walk in the vestiges of their forefathers, they spurn at every thing that would lead them to deviate from the beaten track; and strongly wedded to their own inveterate plans, every improvement comes to them as a questionable innovation. From their limited education, and early occupation in manual labour, they have had little time for reading, and few opportunities of obtaining information, but what are afforded by an occasional attendance on a fair or market. In proportion therefore, as their minds are contracted, their views must be confined; and if they refuse instruction, it is because they deem it unnecessary; and if they obstinately pursue the plans of their ancestors, it is because they are unable to form a judgment of others. It is not to be expected that experiments should originate with men so brought up and so occupied, or that they should readily adopt the resulting improvements. More tenacious of traditional information, than open to the conviction of example, it will be no subject for wonder if the present race should continue the dupes of prejudice, and the slaves of

custom. What is still more to be lamented, the very method thought the most likely to remove this prejudice, and counteract this custom, has tended to increase and perpetuate both—the *introduction of English farmers*. For some of them are men, who have been too idle, or too extravagant to make the two ends meet, in their own country; and have migrated here, thinking from the cheapness of land, and other ideal circumstances, to accumulate rapid fortunes. Bringing with them notions of farming, not calculated for the nature of the soil, and the old habits of indolence remaining, they soon learn by woeful experience, that the most fertile soil requires attention, and that skill and industry are essential requisites to improve a farm, or constitute a farmer. Every defaulter of this kind uses a host of arguments against the reception of the new system; and a failure in a single crop of one of these “*new comers*,” is sufficient to rivet a variety of links in the chain of prejudice. There are some of a very different cast, who are cultivating the soil with great success; and by their example are stimulating the gentry, and more sensible part of the yeomanry, to adopt a rational system. Perhaps the most effectual step would be, to place some of the rising generation under such men as these, both here and in England; and let men, so instructed, have the preference in the letting of farms.

The general price of land varies very much in different parts; the average on farms, from 12s. to 30s. per acre. The estates for the most part are let from year to year. Some proprietors have lately let their estates on lease; but on too short a term either to make, or encourage good farmers. Seven years is

not a sufficient time for the purpose of experiment, nor to repay the expenses of improvement. In a country where, if much is to be expected, much must be done, a term of fourteen years perhaps would be a fair mode of contracting between landlord and tenant.

The original, and what may be termed the staple system of husbandry, followed in the greater part of this district is, barley, oats ; barley, oats ; oats laid down to grass ; mowed, grazed ; mowed, grazed about two or three years, then broke up again. Thus will the inconsiderate farmer push his rotation of crops, and exhaust his land beyond all hope of recovery, in any reasonable time. Others rising from the mire of prejudice, follow a five-field husbandry, with an intermediate application of manure : 1st, manured for wheat ; 2d, barley ; 3d, oats, slight dressing ; 4th, barley, with clover lay ; 5th, clover mown, then wheat again. Others manure for potatoes ; 2d, wheat ; 3d, barley, with clover lay ; 4th, clover mown. The best method followed by a few, is the four-field system : 1st, manure for wheat ; 2d, barley ; 3d, summer fallow, turnips ; 4th, barley, manure for wheat again. The principal manure on the coast are sea sludge, shells, and sand ; in the interior, lime solely : the farm-yards being in general ill-calculated to collect any quantity of rich dung ; and the farmers are bad economists in the valuable article, manure. Lime is so plentiful and cheap, that it becomes a temptation to the Glamorganshire farmer. Having seen the good effects produced by this substance in one or two instances, he immediately concludes it must be so in all ; and by an injudicious, and indiscriminate use of it, often injures the land for years. A stranger

to its nature, and the properties of the soils on which it is placed, he not only misapplies it in many instances, but overcharges it in all. It may therefore be a proper question to put, whether this admirable substance, which the scientific agriculturist converts to such beneficial purposes, has been advantageous or disadvantageous hitherto, to the county of Glamorgan. The plough of the country is awkward in its shape, and too heavy for the generality of the soils, and as is too often the case, even in ploughs of modern construction, the line of draft and the line of resistance by no means coincide. A point of the most material consequence, both for diminishing the labour, and giving regularity to the business of tillage. Ploughing, and most other operations of the farm, are performed by oxen, horses being seldom used but in the shafts, or to go to coalpits. How far the general use of oxen instead of horses might be advantageous to the public, or individuals, has never been clearly ascertained. Much has been said on both sides of the question; but most of the arguments have been furnished by theory, and the respective partisans have cautiously suppressed every consideration that was likely to weaken the apparent strength of their cause. The superior strength and agility of the horse have been opposed to the weakness and sluggishness of the ox; and the cheapness of keep, and the value of the latter, when his labour is over, have been contrasted with the great expense, and little value, when dead, of the former: while both have overlooked the essential point in the adoption of horses, *the great fatigue they will undergo, at a time when labour is most wanted; and when, particularly in seed time and harvest, the very essential requisite is*

power and dispatch. Need I say, how often the future value of the ox is an imaginary consideration, as numbers of them fall a sacrifice to the improper treatment, or too great fatigue of the unnatural employment at these trying seasons. *I can, from observation, say, that it is a losing concern in this country.* This perhaps may be considered as a proper place for this remark: for it is famed for its breed of black cattle; and they even boast of a superiority to all other breeds: and if an ox, either in point of weight or beauty, excel, it is customary, if of a dark colour, to say its a *Glamorgan*. These are frequently, when fat, sold for 50 and 60 pounds per yoke. But I must beg leave to differ from the general opinion; and think, that they are not equal to those of Hereford, or Devon. Putting the question to some sensible graziers, they acknowledged, that the next in point of beauty and eligibility was the Devonshire breed; and that the South Down sheep approximated very near in value to their own. Perhaps a stronger argument could not be adduced in favour of the superiority of these two breeds than this concession. For, as Lord Bacon observes, self love induces every one to challenge *the pre-eminence to himself*, and he, to whom others with one consent give the next place, may be presumed to be superior to others. For while out of zeal for our own, we give the first place, justice demands of us to give the second where it is *justly due*. The cows are small in the body, with long slender legs, generally well milched, but as may be inferred from their shape, no favourites with the butcher. I never could perceive any very material difference between the breed of black cattle here,

and in the county of Pembroke, most probably one original stock ; and it is well known, that many of those are purchased and sold *as the breed of Glamorgan*. The sheep are principally the native breed, much degenerated by length of time. This kind of stock is however improving, both in weight of carcase and goodness of fleece ; by crossings with the Dorset, Cotswold, and South Down. The improvement will doubtless produce a greater quantity of food ; but the flavour will never be equal to that of the present small mountain mutton. *

The excellency of Glamorgan butter is too well known to need any eulogy ; it is as highly celebrated as that of Epping forest with the London epicures. Great quantities are annually salted and exported to Bristol and other places. This article of luxury seems to have been invented by the natives. It is certain that they very early arrived at perfection, and the country still preserves both the art and the fame. For according to Pliny, (L. xi. c. 41.) Milk not only furnished them with a pleasant liquor, but they had the art of making it into curds and whey. “ *Densantes in acorem jucundam et pingue butyrum;*”) and also butter is an agreeable food, which was utterly unknown to the Romans at that early period. It was denominated *Bugd-ur*, or excellent food ; and

* A gentleman resident in the country had been frequently requested by a London friend to send him a present of mountain mutton. Expecting that such requests might be too often repeated, he purchased a hind quarter, weighing 6lb. for which he paid 1s. 6d. packed it and sent it by the mail-coach ; inclosing a note assuring his friend, that if he liked the flavour, and would pay the carriage, which in this instance came to 2s. 9d. he should be welcome to as much mountain mutton as ever he would send for.—The sequel need not be told.

at first was confined to the use of the British chiefs and great men. To those interested in the history of times and manners, it is curious to observe, that the mode of manufacturing it was essentially the same as at present; and the nature of the substance, according to the observant Pliny, who describes it as the spume of the milk, more concreted than what is called butter milk, and strongly partaking of the nature of *oil*. (Pliny, L. xi. c. 41.)

Where butter is a staple commodity, you must not expect the cheese should be of *prime* quality. The greater part of that made here, and through South Wales, is very inferior indeed. Deprived of the most nutritious part of the milk, and made strong by a superabundant quantity of rennet, it is highly disgusting to the palate of an Englishman. It is however eagerly sought after, and much eaten by the Welsh, who prefer it when *new*; for if long kept, it becomes prodigiously hard, very similar to what in Hampshire is called *Isle of Wight rock*. Though the generality of cheese is of this inferior quality, yet it must not be inferred, that the country is unfit for cheese making, or that the people are entirely ignorant of the art. A kind of cheese is made in some parts of the country of all sheeps' milk, or a mixture of sheep and cows' milk, exceedingly rich and high flavoured; and when of a proper age, little if at all inferior to the boasted *Parmesan*. That made at Ewenny sells for one shilling per pound; while that of the dairies about St. Fagans *brings sixteen pence*. Whether the art of manufacturing this useful article was known to the early Britons, might be a subject for antiquarian research. Mr. Pennant says, that this was one of the most valuable

memorials the Romans left the Britons: and that we are expressly told, that the Britons were entirely ignorant of it, till the arrival of the Romans. Be that as it may, the people of Britain have so far improved in this article, as to excel all other countries, not excepting Italy, the land of their ancient instructors; and among others, if we must except Glamorgan, the Cestrians seem to have the pre-eminence, as the cheese of Worcester, Gloucester, Leicester, and Chester, will abundantly testify.

The custom of *milking the ewes*, which is general here, will excite from you a smile; and you will perhaps ask, where is the profit, and what becomes of the lambs? The quantity of milk given, from one to two quarts per day, would by the English farmer be scarcely thought an equivalent for the trouble of milking; and every quart of milk so obtained, he would consider as lost in the proof of the mother and her offspring. But so rivetted are these people to this custom, that they suppose both are better in consequence of the practice; and allege as a proof, the generally prevailing and analogous custom of milking the cow. It should at the same be remembered, that Glamorgan is a *rearing*, rather than a grazing county; and the highest ambition of the farmer is to be considered a *good breeder*. There may be some solidity in this reasoning, and a long-established practice should not be condemned, without being thoroughly canvassed; and the injurious consequences clearly proved. The part of the *vale* which adjoins the sea coast is very different from any part of the principality. We before observed, the Normans and Anglo-Normans, soon after the Conqueror's time, established themselves in this

country ; and their descendants have formed a kind of distinct people ever since, visible in the language, dress, and manners of the inhabitants : and though the line of demarcation is not so distinct, as that discoverable between the hundreds of Rhos and Dengledly, yet it may without much difficulty be traced. In Gower it is peculiarly striking : their persons are different : those of Gower have thin faces with narrow foreheads, flat cheek bones, with a flat and rather sharp nose ; hair for the most part light, or brown, with blue or grey eyes. On the other hand, the Welsh have *dark eyes, dark hair*, high foreheads, with prominent cheek bones. The dress of a female in Gower is a short jacket and petticoat, with a straw hat, and a piece of coarse red cloth, about two yards long and one wide, with a deep fringe on one side, carelessly thrown over the shoulder ; hence denominated a Gower whittle. Those of Celtic origin wear a long gown, a long blue cloth cloak, and a beaver hat. The language of the Gower people is English, with the intermixture of a few Norman French words ; and the dialect rather broad and coarse. So that a traveller might fancy himself in the west of England. While if you enter into a Welsh village, though not three miles distant, they will, if able, even refuse to speak to you in English. They seldom intermarry, and have an utter aversion for each other. When a man of Gower is asked the residence of one in Llangevelach, a village on the Welsh side of the line, it is a common reply, " I danna know, a lives somewhere in the Welshery." But this affected contempt is retaliated upon them by the Welsh, who never speak of the people of Gower without adding *lleidrai* or *yspeikwri* ; thieves

and robbers. The manners of the Welsh are however more engaging than those of their high-bred neighbours: the former are simple and civil, while the latter are forbidding and insolent: they seem to have inherited a considerable share of the haughty and overbearing disposition, which so strongly characterised the Norman invaders; but the reserve and frequent irritations of the Welsh are not calculated soon to subdue it. It is mentioned by a pedestrian tourist, (vid. Second Walk in Wales), that the Flemings, disbanded from the English army in the time of Henry II. settled along the coast of Glamorgan; and that one of their chiefs made Llantwit the place of his residence. But this is no more probable, than the tale of the people pursuing a supposed Irish traitor, and drawing up in squadrons, and, by regular platoon firing, knocking down a scarecrow. It is improbable that the Normans would permit them to obtain a residence and lands among them: for the Anglo-Normans had joined the cause of the Empress and Henry. *But it is flatly contradicted by fact.* A. D. 1105, a terrible disaster befel the Low Countries; a great part of Flanders being inundated by the sea, the miserable inhabitants were compelled by imperious necessity to seek for new habitations in a distant country. They accordingly petitioned King Henry I. for some portion of his kingdom, devoid of population: who politically conceiving that these foreigners would prove a thorn in the side of the Welsh, whom he ardently wished to subdue, embraced this charitable plea, to liberally grant what it was not in his power justly to bestow: assigning them the district called Rhos in Dyfed, now a part of Pembrokeshire, where their descen-

dants are still distinctly to be traced at the present hour. A number of the same country had engaged in the English army, * and followed the fortunes of Stephen in his contest with the Empress Maud. One of the first acts of King Henry II's reign was to dismiss these troops from his service, by which his mother had been ousted of her right to the throne of England. As many of these were consequently wandering about the kingdom, and likely to excite commotions among his English subjects, he allowed them pensions, and gave them permission to settle among their *countrymen in Dyfed*. Thus, while the native princes were weakening their powers by mutual hostilities, the Flemish colony gained a considerable accession of strength; which enabled them to annoy the Welsh on the west, while the Normans were no less troublesome to their peace on the east. (Vid. Welsh Chron. 204, and Powel, p. 173.)

I have been thus particular, because the propagation of mistakes by inattentive observers, as well as hasty transcribers, should be instantly opposed. The mis-statement of a fact in history, like the misplacing of a date in chronology, superinduces disorder; and by the reiterated application of conjecture, the truth of history is buried under the rubbish of error.

I am Yours, J. E.

* Rapin says, these soldiers known in the English historians by the name of Brabançons, and in French by that of Routiers, or Catteraux, were a mixture of people from several parts of Europe, but particularly from Germany and the Low Countries. As they professed themselves independent of any particular prince, they served indifferently whoever had a mind to employ them, provided they found their account in it.

LETTER VIII.

DEAR SIR,

ON the opposite side the river, is the poor small town of Llanelly, with an old mansion of the Stepney family in a state of dilapidation, inhabited principally by fishermen and colliers. Several collieries are worked in this neighbourhood, as the country round abounds in this useful fossil. It is an unusual circumstance, that the coals here differ from those of Cidwelly, though but six miles distant. Those of the latter place being stone coals, which bear only to be watered, but not blown, as they are quickly extinguished by a strong stream of air; while those of the former, denominated *ring coals*, bear both to be watered and blown, and are therefore much in repute for the use of smiths. This, though a small place, has a tolerable harbour; and is the controuling port both for Caermarthen and Cidwelly. The Custom-house being here, all clearances and entrances are here registered. From the entries it appears the trade of this district has been on the decline. The list of ships cleared out stands thus: 1793, 478; 1794, 457; 1795, 509; 1796, 520; 1797, 411; 1798 328; 1799, 381; 1800, 331, to August 27th.

A large iron foundery and other works, have been lately erected by a Mr. Raby, and it is not improbable but it may again be a flourishing place. Ascending the hill of Penbre, we obtained a fine view of the bay of Caermarthen; and descending abruptly, found ourselves enviroined with collieries. We then crossed the Gwendraeth Vawr, by a long narrow

bridge of numerous small arches, thrown over a marshy flat overflowed by the tide, and entered the small but neat town of Cidwelly, otherwise Cathweli, i. e. Cattælectus; because Leland says Cattus used here to make his bed in an oak. Some consider this as the Catgwaloph of Bede, where he says was fought the battle between Aurelius Ambrosius and Vortigern, A. D. 458; 96 years before the battle of *Baden*. (Vid. MS. Welsh Chron. in *Llifr coch a Hergest*. Jes. Coll. Lib.) The old town stands between the two rivers, Gwendraeth Vawr, and Vychan, on the banks of the latter. It is walled round, and had three gates, part of which and one gateway are still standing: one of these, in Leland's time, had a fair town hall over it, and beneath a dungeon.

Here was a priory of Benedictine monks, founded by Roger, bishop of Salisbury, about the 1130, dedicated to St. Mary, and made subordinate to the monastery of Sherborne in Dorset; valued, at the Dissolution, 38*l.* per annum. But on entering Cidwelly, the first thing that strikes the eye is the bold shell of its magnificent castle, standing on an eminence near the bank of the river, and is remarkable for the state of preservation after so long having been neglected. The chapel and principal apartments are still to be distinguished; several staircases accessible; and the grand gateway to the south and four round towers, perfectly uniform, produced a venerable effect. Time, however, has sufficiently impaired its beauty, as to heighten its sublimity. The erection of this edifice is attributed to King John; and the lordship of Cidwelly being at present included in the duchy of Lancaster, would be favourable to such a conjecture. But Maurice de

Londres, removing out of Glamorganshire, made himself master of Cidwelly; after a severe struggle, fortified the town with walls, and erected the present castle, (vid. Camden). But Powel says, it was built by *Rhys, Prince of South Wales, A. D. 1190*. It is famed in history for having been the scene of one among many instances of personal courage and military prowess, exhibited on extraordinary occasions by the softer sex. When the above Maurice invaded these territories, Gwennllian, wife of Gryffydd-ap Rhys, and daughter of Gryffydd ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, a woman of heroic courage, wishing to restore the declining fortunes of her husband, who was gone into North Wales to solicit assistance, rallied the broken forces of the Welsh; roused the spirit of her friends; and, with the aid of her two sons, placing herself at the head, bravely engaged the Anglo-Normans in a pitched battle. For a time victory declared in her favour, and her united skill and valour appeared invincible: but fresh troops continually being poured in from the Norman garrisons in the vicinity, the event of the day proved against her; but not till herself, and her son Morgan, and the chief of the nobility, were left dead on the field of battle, and her son Maelgwyn made prisoner. The place where this battle was fought is still called *Maes Gwellian*. Worrington says, she was beheaded, though dead, after the defeat: but

“ ————— Nullum memorabile nomen

Fœminea in pœnâ est, nec habet victoria laudem.”

However, an act so savage, even without precedent in those brutal times, called loudly for vengeance. Alive to an injury so singularly atrocious, her brother, Owen Gwynedd, and Cadwalader, whose per-

sonal courage and courteous demeanour might have entitled them to dispute the palm with the accomplished knights of the days of chivalry, assembled their forces, and laid waste the whole province of Cardigan. Being joined by the outraged husband, and their army increased by the auxiliary troops of several chieftains, they took or destroyed every thing before them: and it was long before the Normans, aided as they were by all the power of the English, could recover the blow: nor were they able to make any effectual resistance, till the confederacy was weakened by the untimely death of the gallant Gryffydd, son of Rys ap Tewdwr, who closing a life replete with deeds of valour, reflected back the honours he had received from a long line of illustrious ancestry.

The courageous and spirited feats of this heroine are still in the recollection of the neighbourhood; and her name, Gwenllian, is a favourite Christian one among the females of the present day. Gryffydd, son of Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales, when in possession of the place, suspecting that the magistrates had a design to betray him to the Earl of Pembroke, then in arms against his father, burnt the whole town to ashes, not even sparing churches or religious houses, A. D. 1222. It suffered a similar fate from Llewelyn himself, A. D. 1231: but it was repaired by Alice de Londres, wife of the Duke of Lancaster; and again in the reign of Henry VII. on his visiting Gwentland.

After this invasion, the inhabitants left what is called the Old Town, and settled to the westward of the river, nearer the shore, invited by the prospect of a good harbour, and built what now forms

the principal part of the town : these are joined by a handsome stone bridge ; but the harbour is so choaked with sands, that it is at present a very indifferent port. A few small vessels are able to come to the *loading quay* ; otherwise those that draw much water are under the necessity of dropping anchor at what is termed the *sailing quay*, a mile below the town. The principal trade is in coals, which are delivered at 2s. per barrel. Culm varies in price from 9d. to 1s.

A singular circumstance occurred some time since to this harbour. An extensive sand bank some years ago increased so much, as to shut up the usual entrance to the port ; but lately it separated, and the opening became sufficiently deep, at high water, to admit vessels, as formerly, through this more eligible line. The principal collieries in the neighbourhood belong to the Miss Reymars, as coheirresses of the late Mr. Reymar, who, finding the coal trade decrease, and likely to be lost, from the land carriage preventing the people here coming into the market upon equal terms with those of Pembrokeshire and Glamorgan, boldly engaged alone in the spirited undertaking of opening a canal from the collieries and lime quarries to the quay, a line of three miles and a half ; which he effected at his individual expense. This produced the desired effect ; and it now pays a considerable interest on the principal, besides the additional advantage derived to the collieries.

This Lordship, with the annexed title of Lord of Ogmores and Cidwelly, came by the marriage of Haweis, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Londres, to Patrick Haworth, and by a grand-daughter of the said Patrick, to Henry, Earl of Lancaster ; and now forms part, and enjoys the privileges of that

duchy. A very singular obligation formerly attended this tenure: for the heirs of Maurice de Londres were obliged by it, in case the king or his chief justice came into this neighbourhood, to conduct the army, and all the forces and banners, through the midst of the country of Neath and Louchor. On this account it was that the castle was repaired and fitted up for the reception of King Henry VII. when his presence was expected in this part of the country.

Beneath the town is an extensive marsh, covered with numerous flocks, the wool of which has for centuries been prized for its fineness. Leland says, "This part of Kidwely land berith the best woolle of hye Walys." The sheep are a cross of the native and the Devon, and, though not so remarkable animals as the Cape sheep, yet their tails run generally from eighteen inches to twenty-four in length, and form, when dressed, a handsome and delicious dish.

Without supposing something in the salt marsh herbage, it will be difficult to account for this superiority in the wool, as the great prerequisites to produce fine wool are here wanting: frequent crossing and housing in inclement weather. These sheep are left to the care of a common shepherd during the summer months, and are wintered on the leys of the higher ground, without other fodder, except in snow, during winter. Besides, it is well known that the Spanish shepherds deal out salt freely to their fine woolled flocks; and it is highly probable this ingredient in their food may produce a considerable effect, both in the carcase and the wool.

From Cidwelly we made an excursion up the vale

of Gwendraeth Vawr and Vychan. These two rivers have their sources in the commot of Eskenning, and after running, the one about eight, and the other ten miles, fall into the sea a mile below the town; the separation being made by a narrow ridge of land, which terminates in a small sandy foreland, called Calicot. These run through two pleasing vales, which terminate near Llandilo. The land is various, but for the most part consists of rab, sand, and loam, in the vale of *Gwendraeth Vychan*, and is studded with small fertile farms: while the soil of *Gwendraeth Vawr*, especially on the eastern side, is principally a yellow ochreous clay, lying over coal and iron, and is peculiarly ungenial to vegetation.* The high land forming the division between these vales, consists of blue and grey limestone, accompanied with iron: and near a large stone bridge, over the greater Gwendraeth, called Pont Yates, we ascended the ridge to examine some iron mines lately discovered, belonging to Mr. Raby. They are at present in their infancy, and the ore is brought to the mouth of the pit by buckets, and a single winch and barrel: but as they seem to promise an ample supply of this useful metal, and the ore (2d tribe, 1st family of Kirwan) being rich, yielding from 35 to 50 per cent. of iron, the steam engine will be added, and will doubtless become a profitable concern to the adventurers. The shafts are from thirty to sixty feet deep, and the whole hill seems teeming with metallic substances.

* The country here, and as far as Llanon, is full of coal, and forms part of the line from Swansea to the coast of Pembroke, which we shall take occasion more particularly to notice.

We directed our steps towards the sources of these rivers, which is at Low issa Cennen, near the point of the vale of Towy. Between the heads of the streams is a hill consisting of a limestone, or marble of a greenish hue, not unlike the green asbestine rocks near Llanwornyangle, in the Isle of Anglesea. Gwendraeth Vawr rises in a hill called Mynnydd Vawr, and a small pool in a moor beneath takes the name of Llyn Tegwyn. The hill in which Gwendraeth Vychan rises is Mynnydd Vychan, in which is an opening, into which persons used to walk ; and where they say are spacious subterraneous walks, and that a communication was once open to Worm's Head, and hence to Carreg Cennen. Near this are the traces of Lle' Carreg, an isolated rock ; and not far from it is a rock, called Craig y Dinas : between the two, in the bottom, it is said, was once a town, and that a bridge of timber formed a communication between these two almost inaccessible eminences. Leland judiciously observes, that it must have been formed of wood, as the distance is too great a bearing for an arch of stone. Three miles to the northward, on another isolated and inaccessible rock,* stand, mid the clouds, the rugged ruins of *Caer Cennin Castle*, at the foot of which flows the stream whence the fortress derives its name. During the struggles of the Welsh for independence, this was the boast of the South Walilian Princes, and justly considered an impregnable fortress. After the conquest, it was of course, neglected ; and about the fourteenth century it became

* Both these are projections of the mountain called Mynnydd dŷ, which seems to stand as an advanced guard.

a place of rendezvous and security for a set of marauding banditti, that infested and despoiled the neighbourhood : in consequence of which, the people of this part of the country assembled, and reduced it to the heap of ruins now visible, which at a distance appears like a large Druidical temple. Here is a well that supplied the garrison with water, and which, Gyraldus says, ebbs and flows with the sea : but not being acquainted with the time of high water, we could not vouch for the accuracy of his relation.

We observed, enjoying the absence of human beings, the heron and bittern taking their pastime here. Leland observes, "There is very good hawkynge for herons on Venraith Vetian," (vol. viii.) You know that this was formerly a bird of game ; *heron hawking* being so favourite a diversion of our ancestors, that laws were enacted for the preservation of the species ; and the person who destroyed their eggs was liable, for every offence, to a penalty of 20s. Descending the river about three miles, it is joined by a brook called Tresgirth, which is so strong a stream, that, though running but a mile, it supplies water for several mills. At the head of this is a hole, or cave ; where it is a custom during Whit-tide for persons to walk. The soil is soft and loamy, and various prints and traces of worms are seen in the sands, which are investigated as a curiosity by travellers, but considered as one of the wonders of Wales by the people of the neighbourhood : for they confidently assert, and as strenuously believe, that there are no worms ever here to occasion these vermicular appearances, for none are ever seen, none have ever been found, and therefore none can exist.

Traversing this part of the country, we were sorry to observe the farms in so slovenly a condition, and its husbandry far below that of Glamorgan. Draining and watering have not been introduced, and, except liming, little is done for the amelioration of the soil. We were happy, however, to find a few exceptions; and among these may be mentioned, Mr. Bevan of Pengay, and Mr. Davis of Lachtony; both of which gentlemen received us with genuine hospitality, and feasted us with a view of improvements highly creditable to themselves, and deserving the thanks and imitation of the country—well cultivated farms, abounding in white and green luxuriant crops. Among other deviations of the latter gentleman from the irrational practice of his neighbours, one appeared particularly worthy of observation, as it may suggest a hint for improvement, even to the midland or eastern farmer: *the cultivation of furze or whins, as food for horses and other cattle.* Mr. Davis has ten acres of land, which, from its barrenness, and lying on a steep declivity, had been very unproductive, and considered of little value. The field was sown with furze seed the beginning of March 1794, and cut in the autumn of 1796. Half the field he sold for £50; and the first half crop maintained sixteen horses thirteen weeks, the pounding of which cost £5. 11s. to be deducted. He now cuts it every year, and keeps through the winter months his *whole team, riding, and other horses*; and gives it mixed with *hay to his horned cattle*: some he uses green, and others he stacks up like hay. The time for cutting this crop is the beginning of September, and you may continue cutting till after Christmas; and the crop will be fit for use till the

beginning of April: the produce per acre from twelve to fifteen tons weight. The practice of using furze as a food for cattle, has been general in Wales and Scotland by poor people; but that of *cultivating it* for the purpose is novel in both countries. The common mode of bruising the furze for use has generally been by beating it with a short pole, having a transverse handle, and armed at the lower extremity with cross irons, cutting and bruising at the same time, the furze being placed in a tub or trough. A man in this way will bruize six toil, or thirty-six bushels, per day, at the low price of one halfpenny per bushel. They have, however, in some places adopted a more expeditious method: making use of a mill, formed of two wooden cylinders, armed with alternate teeth, like the common drag, but on a smaller scale,* which are turned by a large horse, or small water wheel. It has been objected to the use of this food, that it is too stimulating and heating, producing ill blood and various diseases among the cattle fed with it. Mr. Davis denies this; and perhaps the same objection will equally lie against the use of corn, if given in large quantities: however, even allowing there may be some truth in this, its effects might easily be obviated, by mixing chopped

* A model of a mill for this purpose has been presented to the Bath society, upon the plan of the cyder mill of Hereford and Worcester. But an insurmountable objection lies against this plan, that of reducing the furze to an impalpable pulp, by which means much of the juice, the most nutritious part, is unavoidably lost. A better contrivance would be to construct a mill with *horizontal fluted cast iron cylinders*, cogged at the ends, and turned by hand, similar to the cyder mill of the western counties.

straw or chaff. A hundred weight of straw will thus qualify a ton of furze. What is called the *French furze* is the kind to be preferred for this purpose; its young shoots being more succulent and luxuriant than the other. It grows, if permitted, to a very considerable size: in some parts of the country ten and twelve feet high; and its stems, which are cut for fuel, are from eight to twelve inches in compass. The fire is esteemed clearer, and the heat greater than that produced from any other kind of wood; it is substituted for the hawthorn in many places through Wales; and being planted or sown in double rows, and kept from cattle till the second year, it produces a durable, cheap, and invulnerable fence. The other sort is called *dwarf furze*, a low-growing shrub, and considered as the characteristic mark of shallow and barren ground: but I have seen it growing spontaneously on very different soils, yet still preserving the same *diminutive size*; and even where both have been growing together, a distinction has still been very visible. Though they are classed by Linnæus as one species, under the name of *alex Europæa*, yet there can be little doubt of their being two distinct species: for, though relative magnitude in different soils can afford no specific mark, the case is otherwise where the soils are the same; and if the time of flowering, the one in spring, and the other in autumn, cannot be depended upon, yet where this circumstance is uniform, variety is certainly not an adequate term. But there is an evident and permanent distinction between the two plants: the thorns of the dwarf kind are triangular and smooth, except at the base, appearing to proceed from the bark; the pods small and short, without

freeze. The French furze has thorns, a real extension of the stem, quite straight, woolly, twice or thrice as long as the leaves; pods thick and short, covered with a hoary whitish freeze. The leaves of the latter awl-shaped, of the former, fringed. The French in its time of flowering accompanies the broom, blowing in May: the dwarf accompanies the heath, coming into, as the other is going out of, blossom. I should distinguish them by *ulex Europæus* and *ulex fimbriifolius*; or perhaps better, *ulex vernalis* and *ulex autumnalis*.

If, on further trial, this rugged plant should be found to answer, as it has hitherto done in its half cultivated state, what may not be expected from good ground, proper attention, and an apparatus for its preparation, at a small expense and convenient manner? An acre of furze may far exceed in value and productive profit, the more fashionable crops of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, or ruta бага, as much as these do the acre of unprofitable waste, or barren sheep sleight.

Mr. D. lamented that lucerne had not been tried in this district, and that *santfoin* had hitherto failed, owing to the sheep infesting the infant crops: trespassing, that great bar to agricultural improvements, being from inveterate habit considered a mere bagatelle in the inconveniences of a neighbourhood. Conversing with this intelligent agriculturist respecting watering his grass lands in spring, he observed that he had repeatedly made the experiment, some of his land lying well for such treatment: but that he had the mortification, not only to find that it did not succeed to his wishes, but that he destroyed his grass. Whether, he said, this might arise from the water

being charged or saturated with a certain sterile earth, as observed in the Bath Society's papers, he could never discover : he, however, rather supposed this must have been the case, as he had attended to the judicious observations of Mr. Davis and Mr. Wimple, as to the time of admitting and discharging the waters. This information induced us to visit the spring. On examining the water we quickly discovered, that it was strongly impregnated with copper, which at once accounted for the failure he had experienced : copper being very injurious to general vegetation. May not similar disappointments have originated in similar causes ? Near the spring, where they had been sinking for lead ore, on a faulty load, we found abundance of malachite (second tribe, first family, v. 2 of Kirwan). Some lead mines in the vicinity had been successfully worked, but owing to the reduction in the price, they were now neglected.*

Shaping our course towards the Towy, we observed a number of females employed upon the margin of a meandering stream ; and found, to our no small surprize, they were occupied in manufacturing the best and boasted liquor of the country, *cwrrw*. As we had often refreshed our way-worn spirits, after many a toilsome day, with this incomparable beverage, it was natural to make inquiries into the process of making it. To you, who have witnessed the complicated and expensive apparatus

* In the parish of Landeveily, near Gelli, we found hypericum androsæmum, salvia claryvel verbenaca, acrostichum septentrionale ; and near Upland, solidago Cambricum. On the road side towards Caermarthen, lythrum salicornia, lythrum hysopifolia, and humulus lupulus in abundance.

of an English brewery, with furnaces, pumps, coolers, vats, &c. &c. the description of a Welsh brewery will appear singular, if not amusing. These persons were here with their tubs and barrels, placed on the banks of the stream: as it is a maxim with them to bring their utensils to the water, rather than the water to the utensils. Provided with wide and flat brazen pans, and an iron tripod, they kindle a fire with wood, over which they place the tripod, with the pan upon it; here they boil their water, rinse their vessels, mesh, boil their wort, and tun their beer, adding yest and letting it ferment in the casks, filling up as the ferment comes over. They place the casks for this purpose with a little inclination of the bung-hole towards the left hand; by this method the fermenting liquor, which has a rotatory motion, discharges its feculence with greater facility.

This is the rustic mode. In large towns they have utensils, as in England; but they ferment the worts in tubs, till a fine head arises, when they mix up both the body of the wort and the head, and tun it into casks, still leaving the bung aperture open for further fermentation; they then add wheat meal and hops, and stop it up for use. By this excellent method they produce a transparent salubrious liquor, fit for drinking in the course of a few weeks. Nor is it wonderful they should excel in the production of a liquor, which for ages has been the favourite beverage of the country. The ancient Britons ordinarily drank water or milk; but at their feasts, and on other extraordinary occasions, metheglin, or a liquor they denominated curmi, now degenerated into cwrw, and by the English ale. They some-

times incorporate with it spice and honey, forming a liquor they term bragawd. This, the natural substitute for wine, in countries not producing the grape, was originally made in Egypt, the first planted kingdom on the dispersion from the east, that was supposed inadequate to the production of the grape: and as colonies migrated further to the west, they imagined the same defect, and supplied it in a similar manner. Thus the Iberians, the Gauls, and the aboriginal Britons, used an infusion of barley at their feasts; and by the former it was called *Ceria*, by the second *Cerevisia*, and by the last *Curmi*: words of similar import, meaning *strong-water*. Vid. Whitaker's Hist. of Brit.

Passing the small village of St. Ishmael,* we crossed a ferry at the mouth of the Towy, to visit the ruins of Laustephan Castle, standing on a bold elevation; erected to secure the navigation of the river. This castle and lordship were removed by an act, in the reign of Henry VIII. from Caermarthen-shire, in which it is situate, as an adjunct to Pembroke-shire, because it formerly belonged to the Earls of Pembroke. At high water the sea beats violently against the rock on which the castle stands; but at ebb it retires several miles out, exhibiting the *bar*, and a long tract of shifting sands, which render the entrance both difficult and dangerous. The tide was now out, and numerous *cocklers* were busily engaged in their uncomfortable and ill-paid employment. These are poor females, wives and daughters of fishermen and others, that come here for the

* On the shore we found *eryngium maritimum*, *glaux maritima*, and *arenaria rubra*.

purpose of taking cockles. These fish bury themselves in the sands, and are discovered by a small bubbling, occasioned by their breathing, upon which their pursuers immediately scratch them up, put them in sacks, and carry them to the boats, which ply for this purpose between this place and Caermarthen, during high tides, at the small fare of 2d. each person. After thus toiling, and the spoil brought home, they obtain sometimes 6d. per bushel.

Taking a boat we had the pleasure of viewing to advantage this part of Ystrad Sywy. On our left, just above the castle, the river makes a fine curve forming a small haven, called Green Haven, where vessels wait for a wind to pass the bar. There are no traces of buildings, but on a rising ground, marks of intrenchments appear; evidently British fortifications, and intended prior to the building of Lanstephan Castle, to defend the pass of the river. The land on both sides is of gradual descent, consisting of a pleasing intermixture of corn and pasturage; verdant slopes interspersed with woods, studded with farms in a tolerable state of comparative cultivation, which as the river winds in a serpentine direction, alternately catch the eye, and produce a pleasing variety: and though this part of the vale be less picturesque, and less celebrated than that above Caermarthen, yet this is not destitute of scenes, which if they do not strike by their bold, yet attach by their milder, beauty. The scene was now pleasingly diversified by the numerous coracles, that were spread about by pairs in every direction, to meet the fish with their trawls on the turning tide. A little before flood, these in shoals leave the upper part of the river, to which place they carry their

vessels on their backs, and having launched, proceed to their respective stations, denominated from the quantity of fish they supply, the *Caermarthen victuallers*. Nor did it add a little to our amusement, to see with what dexterity they managed their nets, and with what celerity, when they saw a fish, they made for the point. If the first pair of boats happened to miss the prize, the next upon the alert generally secured it. No sooner is the unfortunate salmon ensnared, than they quickly draw up the net, and with a mallet striking him upon the head, instantly dispatch him; and lay him in the piscoid, or stern of the boat. Having staid as late as the state of tide will admit, or success may dictate, they unship their spoils; and clapping their coracles on their backs, strapped over their breasts, return like so many walking tortoises to their respective dwellings; at the door of which they place their vessels to be ready at hand for a future voyage. We observed before, (vid. Tour in North Wales,) that these boats are formed of wicker work, about five feet long, and four broad at the stern, tapering to a point at the prow, and covered and secured with tarred canvas. Indeed the Britons appear to have been very early initiated in the art of *wicker work*; and baskets, though used by the Romans, appear of British or Celtic origin. Martial confesses,

“ Barbara de pictis geni *Bascauda* Britannis,

Sed me jam mavult dicere Roma suam.”

And the people in this country are peculiarly ingenious in making baskets, floor-matting, &c. of rushes, equal in appearance to the fine matting imported from India.

Landing near a fine old stone bridge over the river, of seven arches, we entered the town of Caer-

marthen. We put up at the Ivy Bush Inn, once the residence of Sir Richard Steele; and were ushered into an old-fashioned room of curious workmanship, said to have been the room where he composed his most popular comedy, which obtained him the royal favour, and confirmed his celebrity with the public. You who are acquainted how I usually feel on such occasions, will not wonder if I considered myself upon no common ground; and if I trod with all the softness that bespeaks veneration for the place. My companions had examined the wainscots of the room, ascertained its date, and were actually engaged in taking a repast; while I was consulting reminiscence, and ruminating over the life and fortunes of a man, who could feel, express, and practise, such sentiments as these:

“Is this such an heroic business? 'Tis but at best a better taste of expense, to bestow upon one whom he may think an ornament of the whole creation; to be conscious, that from his superfluity an innocent and virtuous spirit is placed above the temptations, the sorrows of life! That he sees satisfaction, health, and gladness in her countenance, while he enjoys the happiness of seeing her! Alas! What mighty matter is this! A greater expense than all this men lay out upon an unnecessary stable of horses or a kennel of dogs!

“For who can be a greater usurer, than he who lays out his money in such valuable purchases as these? If pleasure be worth purchasing, how great a pleasure is it to him, who has a true taste of life, to ease an aching heart, to see the human countenance lighted up into smiles of joy on the receipt of a bit of ore, which is superfluous and

otherwise useless in a man's own pocket? What could a man do better with his cash? This is the effect of a humane disposition, where there is only a general tie of nature, and common necessity. What then, when we serve an object of merit and admiration?" *Conscious Bovers.*

These are sentiments worthy of the man, who at an early period of life, and amidst the blandishments of pleasure, could write the Christian Hero with the design of infixing on his own mind a strong impression of virtue and religion. Some years before his death he became paralytic, and retired to his seat at Llangunner near the town; where he died September 1st 1729, and was privately interred according to his own desire, in the parish church of Caermarthen.

Occupied wholly with the object of my reverie, I felt little inclination to eat; and therefore proposed a survey of the town. It is a large, populous, and tolerably well-built place; the streets are spacious, and many of the houses good. The public buildings are large, a handsome church at the end of Prior-street, and a new elegant county hall built of free stone, with colonnades of the Ionic order; in the upper part of which is transacted public business, and the under is used as a covered market. Situated upon a small elevation on a fine navigable river, in the midst of a fruitful vale, and having no notable town in its vicinity, its markets are large and well supplied; and provisions cheaper than in the places we had passed, and fish exceedingly reasonable. A considerable iron foundery and tin plate manufactory give employment to a number of hands. The smelting houses for lead ore, dug in the northern part of

the county, belonging to Lord Cawdor, were now shut up.

Here is a small port and quay for coasting vessels, principally to Bristol and London. The tide rises at the bridge from eight to twelve feet; but owing to the shallows in the bed of the river below, vessels of much burthen find a difficulty in coming up to the quay. Since the decline of the trade at Cidwelly, that of Caermarthen has increased, and with spirit and property much more might be done. Here is a rope walk, and some few ships are built for sale.

Adjoining Lammas-street are the walls remaining of a priory of *Fratres Grisei*, which was a cell in the custody of the abbey of St. Augustine in Bristol. And in Priory-street, the shell of another is still standing, which was a house of Black Friars,* or canons of St. Augustine, founded before A. D. 1148, and dedicated to St. John the Evangelist: which at the suppression, possessed a revenue of 174l. 8s. 6d. granted 35th of Henry VIII. to Richard Andrews and Nicolas Temple. (Vid. Tanner.) The entrance into the court is by a bold gateway, over which are the arms of the founder. The principal apartments are still distinguishable, and the tracery of some of the windows almost intire. Gyraldus mentions it in

* Amidst all the varied ramifications of the religieux of the dark ages, the kind termed *white*, as they were supposed to exceed in purity both the black and the grised, evidently did so in their *policy*. The grey maintained that St. Francis descended annually into purgatory to emancipate their spiritual slaves, while the white asserted the Virgin Mary their patroness did so every Saturday.

his time as being surrounded with brick walls; we found some remains of walls of red stone towards the river.

It is famous for having given birth to the British Tages, Merlin Emrys, who flourished about the year 480. He is styled by an old author "The son of a badde angell, as of an incubus spirit the Britaine's great Apollo whom Geoffry ap Arthur would ranke with the soothsaying seers, or rather with the true prophets themselves; being none other than a mere seducer and phantastical vizard." His birth is related as incredible, and his pedigree carried up to the old serpent. But of such copulative conjunctions, Brown has ably demonstrated the impossibility; however credible they may appear to those accustomed to the metaphysical jargon of the Roman schools. Numerous are the prophecies he uttered, many of which are still upon record; and some few, by the violent straining of those interested in the subjects, appear to have been fulfilled. As one instance, this has been quoted. "*Sextus mænia Hiberniæ subvertit et regiones regium redigentur.*" Which was considered as accomplished by James of Scotland the 6th. As these prognostications are of high antiquity, and events at different periods have apparently favoured their authority, we would recommend an old Welsh proverb "*Namyn Dduw nid oes Dewin.*" *Except God there is no diviner.*

Caermarthen lays claim to Roman origin. It was the Maridunium of Antoninus, and long the seat of the South Wallian princes; where they held their great national councils, or occasional parliaments. Nor is it less conspicuous on the subsequent page of history. It was considered of so much import-

ance as to become an enviable object of every hostile party; and repeatedly sacked, pillaged, and burnt by both friends and enemies. Sometimes besieged, and sometimes deserted, it was constantly the scene of suffering and devastation. By whom it was fortified and its castle built, there are no authentic documents to shew. Nor do we hear much of it, till the era of difficulty and conflict to the Welsh, occasioned by the unjustifiable invasion and unprecedented cruelty of the Anglo-Normans. It was more than a common observation, doubtless the force of conscience, that extorted from the mouth of Henry I. the remarkable confession in conversation with Milo son of Walter de Constable, Earl of Hereford on this subject. Milo in right of his wife, becoming heir to the estates of Bernard de Newmarch, Lord of Brecon, one of those whose right was the sword, and his title, possession, observed to the king, that as he was going to take possession of his estates, an extraordinary circumstance occurred at Llyn Savathan, for the birds of the lake and adjacent woods on the passing by of Gryffydd son of Rys ap Tewdor, seemed to be seized with a paroxysm of joy expressed by more than usual chirping. This was not at all wonderful, replied the king, for though we have by superior power violently oppressed and injuriously treated that nation, yet it is manifestly known they are the lawful, because the original inheritors of the country. On the accession of Henry to the throne, Wales became a new theatre for the display of iniquity; and the oppressive measures and alienations of property, which before were chiefly confined to the borders, began now to be extended to the interior. In consequence of which

the royal residence was removed to Dinevor, and Caermarthen was rendered a strong fortified post. In 1113 we find it in the hands of the English, committed to Owen ap Caradoc with a strict charge to keep it for the king. But Gryffydd, who well knew the great importance of this place, sent spies to survey the works and ascertain the strength of the place. These returning with a favourable account, he suddenly decamped at night, rushed suddenly into the town, and by a coup-de-main took possession. He then ordered his men to make a loud shout, to alarm, and if possible intimidate, the garrison of the castle. The governor surprised at such an unexpected uproar, hastened to the place whence the shouting appeared to proceed, rushing forward to oppose the enemy, thinking his men were close to support him. But the enemy suddenly falling upon him, and his men flying in all directions, after a noble defence, he fell and was cut in pieces, the town taken and burnt, and Gryffydd having dismantled the castle, returned laden with spoils to his usual residence of Strata Tywy. It was again laid in ashes 1137 by Owen Gwyned. After Gilbert Earl of Clare wishing to recover these territories, which it is probable Stephen in the late treaty had ceded to the Welsh, came into Pembroke with a numerous army, at which time he rebuilt the castle and fortified the town of Caermarthen. (Vid Welsh Chron.) A. D. 1142. It was taken and re-fortified by Cadell son of Gryffydd ap Rys. It was again in possession of the English under William Tuberville, who when it was besieged by Rhys 1158, destroyed the bridge, at that time of wood, for its better security and defence. Though Rhys was unsuccessful

at this time, he took it and despoiled it 1196 after quelling the unnatural rebellion of his two undutiful sons. In the reign of John, 1215, it was taken, and the castle razed by Llewelyn, 1222. It was allotted to Maelgan the uncle of Rys, but at that time in possession of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke. Llewelyn, however, taking advantage of the Earl's absence in Ireland, took this and Cardigan, putting the garrisons cruelly to the sword, and regarrisoned both places with his own men. It was soon afterwards again in the custody of the English troops, as we find, when the same Earl of Pembroke confederated with the Welsh against the English. It sustained a three months blockade, provisions being thrown into the garrison by means of the river, the Earl thought it most advisable to raise the siege.

The remains of this important fortress are still visible on a rocky eminence, and lately additions have been made, and it is used as the county gaol. When this territory was erected into a principality by the crown of England, the chancery and exchequer courts were held here; and it was created a borough town 38th of Henry VIII. with the privilege annexed of sending one member to parliament.

The streets of the town are infested with beggars; indeed mendicity seems systematically pursued, both here and in many parts of South Wales. The police is badly attended to, and the morals of the people appear peculiarly depraved. A general ambition prevails to imitate and be thought like the English, since the intercourse is become so frequent and easy; and it is too obvious to pass unobserved, that they copy the worst points of the original, and generally adopt the worst examples for imitation.

This is too often the evil attendant on all imitations of manners and character : you will recollect it was the case when the Romans aped the follies and vices of Greece ; and it is notoriously true near home, when our travelled gentry return largely freighted with the ridiculous fashions and dangerous sentiments of a neighbouring nation.

The Justices of West Wales, as we were about leaving the town, had opened their commission of oyer and terminer for this part of the principality, The novelty of an assize, held in a language so different from our own, excited the curiosity of the company. Nor was it long before this was amply gratified : several criminal cases, and a numerous list of causes at nisi prius bar occupied the cognizance of the court, and engaged our attention for some days ; nor could any thing exceed the ridicule excited by such a medley of solemnity and frivolity, of such pretensions to right, and such perversions of it, as was exhibited on this occasion : and every humane mind must feel an unusual degree of indignation at the mode in which justice is administered here, and reprobate in the strongest terms the melancholy consequences. The judges were men of the highest respectability : the one at the crown bar a native of North Wales, a man of the most unshaken integrity, and famed for the acuteness and solidity of his judgment ; qualities you would at once suppose, with the assistance of an upright Jury, would ensure to the parties at issue the most fair and honourable decisions. Happy would it be for this country, if the upright intentions of the bench could at all times be crowned with the wished-

for effect : but the language of North and South Wales are so different, as scarcely for the people of the two counties to be able to understand each other. This gives rise to a considerable degree of confusion between the parties and the Judge. The counsel are principally English : the witnesses, unable to speak English, are examined by an interpreter, who, though he is sworn faithfully to interpret to the best of his judgment, is not always impartial between the parties ; and if he be, is not always able to deliver extempore the exact sentiments of the witness : for it is well known how much of the spirit and meaning of testimony may be lost, or its nature changed, in translating it from one language to another, more especially in languages so opposite in their origin and construction as the Welsh and English ; not to mention that the very same sentiments, delivered in a different tone of voice, will appear to have a different, and oftentimes a quite contrary meaning. The interpreter is generally some attorney of the court, and if he should be a person of respectable character, yet such is the nature of man that he must be more than human if he act without bias in the questions he puts, or the answers he gives ; then add the influence he has over the poor ignorant witness, now not confronted to the Jury, but oft to a powerful tyrant of his neighbourhood, whose anger expressed or understood he momentarily dreads more than the displeasure of his God. It is not, I am sensible, peculiar to a Welsh court for the attorney in the cause to be admissible evidence at the bar ; but it is more frequent and less noticed in these than in

English courts :* and it not unfrequently happens, from the confused account of a common witness, and the clearer detail which a man of education and technical knowledge is able to give, for the Jury to decide upon the last and most artful evidence. To determine exactly the credibility of a witness, and the proper force of evidence, is a point of the utmost importance in every equitable system of legislation. "Every man of common sense," says the amiable and judicious Beccaria, "is capable of being a witness as to facts; but the credibility of his evidence ought to be measured by the proportion with which he is interested in declaring or concealing the truth, and this should diminish in proportion to the hatred or friendship subsisting between the parties," and, I may add, the relative interest they may have in the issue of the cause. These essential points not being attended to as they ought, you will not be surprised to hear that the courts of judicature in Wales are less beneficial to the subject than those of England. The cases we heard were strongly illustrative of these remarks. I could detail—but I forbear. They made a strong and lasting impression upon my mind, and I could not help exclaiming in an audible voice on the occasion: if ever my life or property should be subject under the law to the decision of a Jury, O! may it be a Jury of my peers—a Jury impannelled to the east of the Severn!

I am ever Yours, J. E.

* From this circumstance you will often find a cause depending for its issue on the opposite attornies swearing against each other, and the impression made on the minds of the Jury by their profane vociferations and the grossest personal abuse of each other.

LETTER IX.

DEAR SIR,

IF any thing could add to the inexpressible delight afforded by early rising, it is the experience of it in a richly varied country. The celebrated charms of the upper vale of the Towy had excited desires to behold them, and the eve of fruition stimulated our little party to extraordinary alacrity. At a very early hour the company was on the alert, and the refreshing breeze furnished us with a flow of spirits adapted for exertion and enjoyment. The morning was grey, and the blue mists sat close embracing the distant hills before us, while the mountains in the back ground were deep involved in shade. The river, rolling its placid waters, gave a vivid appearance to the scene ; and the umbrageous woods on the margin, contrasting their various greens with the greys of the atmosphere, displayed their foliage to advantage. All was serene and placid, a solemn silence prevailed undisturbed by a single noise, save the twittering of the poor little chaffinch, that bespoke we might soon expect the different choristers of the grove. Gradually, yet rapidly, the morning burst forth from the bosom of the mountains, in the brilliant robes of beauty ; and the harbinger of day, in the most majestic splendour and unparalleled grandeur, saluted our eyes as we passed Llangynor. The sight made us blush at the recollection, how often we had neglected to avail ourselves of this noble view, and for two or three hours of debilitating indolence refused to enjoy the salu-

brious morn : a blessing as commonly neglected as it is beneficially great.

Strolling along the margin of the river, we suddenly came upon *Dryslan Castle*, the ruins of which stand on a natural knoll, close to Towy, with its principal escarpement to the water. It is so called as a place full of difficulty to pass through, or rather a place situated in a thicket of brambles, briars, and brush wood, for this the compound name imports. At a small distance is a high conical hill, supposed to have been a Roman station ; and the remains of a camp, with valla and fossa still visible, occupying nearly the whole of the summit. It is thus described by the prying Leland : " Here is within half a myle of Drislán Castell, on Tewe, on a hyll betwixt the high waye to Cairmarden and the rype of Tewe, a myghtye campe of men of warre, with four or five diches, and an area in the midle. It is of some caullyd Rounghay, that is to say, the Round Hegge, and of some caullid Arcairgather." Itin. v. viii. fol. 107. It is in Welsh *Crownn Caer*, or the circular fortification, in which you will recognise *Grongar*, the station which Dyer took when he composed his celebrated descriptive poem of *Grongar Hill*.

" Grongar Hill invites my song,
Draw the landscape bright and strong ;
Grongar, in whose massy cells,
Sweetly musing, quiet dwells ;
Grongar, in whose silent shade,
For the modest Muses made,
So oft I have the evening still,
At the fountain of a rill,

Dinefawr Castle.

Sate upon a flowery bed,
With my hand beneath my head,
While stray'd my eyes o'er Towy's flood,
Over mead and over wood,
From house to house, from hill to hill,
Till contemplation had her fill."

The prospect from the summit is peculiarly commanding, over a most luxuriant vale finely contrasted by the barren heath-brown mountains that environ it, and rendered still more interesting by the remains of ancient fortresses, that loudly bespeak its former importance and past misfortunes. Beneath the hill at Aberglasney, the elder branch of the poet's family still reside, and near it lately has been erected an elegant modern mansion, the residence of Mr. Paxton. To the right, on the plain, is Golden Grove, the seat of Mr. Vaughan, and, rising as it were from the flood, on an abrupt hill, covered with woods, appear the ivied walls and rugged turrets of *Dinefawr Castle*.

" Yet time has seen that lifts the low,
And level lays the lofty brow,
Has seen this broken pile compleat,
Big with the vanity of state."

I before observed that this was the seat of the *South Wallian Princes*, and where they kept their courts. From the extent of the present ruins it is impossible to trace or form an adequate idea of the original size of the building, it was doubtless spacious and magnificent, calculated at once for defence and state. The castle which Gyraldus saw and described was razed to the ground by Rhys, the father of Maelgon, in whose possession it then,

though unjustly, was. This took place six years after his writing the Itinerary, A. D. 1194. It was, however, quickly rebuilt, as we find two undutiful sons of Rhys having collected a body of hot-headed rebels, came before Dinefawr, and took the castle, garrisoned by their father's men, the following year. It was however wrested out of their hands by their nephews, 1204. Again in the possession of Rhys Fychan, and after enduring a violent siege from the forces of Rhys, his nephew, and auxiliary troops of Anglo Normans, under the command of Foulke, Viscount Caerdiff, it surrendered by capitulation, the garrison marching out with the honours of war, A. D. 1213. After suffering probably many more changes, of which history is silent, till A. D. 1257, when defended by a garrison from North Wales, it held out against an English army till relieved by the forces under Llewelyn; and then witnessed the most terrible engagement that had ever taken place between the English and Welsh, in which the latter were victorious: the former being obliged to fly, leaving more than two thousand slain, among which were many distinguished persons, on the field of battle. But soon it had to view the sad reverse: the chosen army of freedom's sons completely defeated in the memorable battle of Llandilo Fawr, 1282, when the chief spirit and strength of the country was broken and overcome; and their warlike genius, harassed and jaded to death, retire to the banks of the Wye, and expire in the person of Llewelyn, in the pass of Pont Orewyn!

“ A little pomp, a little state,
So transient is the smile of fate ! ”

The present ruins are inclosed in Newton Park, the beautiful scat of Lord Dinevawr. The house stands on an extensive lawn, surrounded by fine woods of oak, elm, beech, and poplar, interspersed with the different verdure of the softer pine and fir, contrasted with the deeper holly and the sable yew. These are disposed with considerable taste, and produce a pleasing effect as they wave their branches o'er the steep river. Finding nothing very remarkable at Llandilo we returned by the road to Aberguily. A small village abounding in fishermen's cottages, and where is the present palace of the bishop of St. David's. It was built by Bishop Beck, after Lantphey became a scene of carnage and dismay. Failing in the attempt to erect a collegiate church at Llangadoc, he changed his mind, and made the church of Aberguily collegiate, 1287, for twenty-two prebendaries, four priests vicars, four choristers and two clerks to the honour of God and St. Maurice. Henry Gower, bishop of St. David's, ordained A. D. 1334, that there should be in this college a precentor, chancellor, and treasurer: who also made several ordinances respecting the future government of the same. But Henry VIII. judging this to be an improper place for the display of hospitality, and that the revenues of the place might be better employed, annexed them A. D. 1541, then valued at 421l. to his newly erected college at Brecknock.

Pursuing our route to the coast we came to the small town of Laugharne, at the mouth of the river Tawe, principally inhabited by persons of small fortunes, residing here for the double purpose of retirement and economy. Here was the castle called in

history Talcharne : the shell of which after undergoing a similar fate to its neighbours, Llanstephan and St. Clear, is fitted up as a gentleman's residence. It formed a part of the possessions of the Earls of Northumberland, but is now the property of the Ravenscroft family. The river which flows here into the sea; forming a small harbour, has been confounded with the Taaffe * in Glamorganshire, from the similarity of sound as they are pronounced by the Welsh; and has given rise to some egregious blunders respecting the history and topography of the country. The country round this secluded but pleasing village, consists of rich clay and loam on a limestone bottom, producing very abundant crops of corn, pulse, and grass: we were pleased also to observe a more rational husbandry than is generally seen in this part of the kingdom. The Kentish and Norfolk ploughs drawn with a pair of horses abreast on the lighter soils, and on the stiffer by two yoke of oxen, with collars substituted for the painful and absurd instrument the yoke. Manuring and liming here go hand in hand, and the strength of the land is not suffered to be exhausted by a previous or cotemporary crop of weeds. A singular custom for a country abounding in coals, attracted our notice in this and other parts of the county of Caermarthen, and furnishes a lesson of economy to other counties. That of making and using as their principal fuel what are termed *hovilles*: that is balls

* The names of Tawy, Towy, Taf, and Tave, have perhaps the same derivation. Ta might be the original word, signifying water: this monosyllable taking the lead in so many names, of our British rivers, as Tanard, Tamar, Thames, pronounced Tames, &c.

composed of a mixture of sludge or clay, and culm or small coal dust, in a proportion of two of the former to one of the latter: which after being exposed to the air and dried, make an excellent fire, producing a clear and lasting heat. This was doubtless the production of necessity after the decay of the woods, and previous to the discovery of coal in any great abundance. And it proves how tenacious countries are of once-adopted customs, which like habits to the individual once formed, generally attach through the remainder of life: nor perhaps is there a more certain clue to the early history of any people, than an impartial investigation of their peculiar customs.

Five miles from Laugharne we came to a remarkable place called "*the green bridge of Wales.*" It is a natural excavation in a rock, through which runs a small rivulet, and here disappears till it mingles its waters with the ocean. Various are the idle stories which this phenomenon has furnished for the credulous and the weak, so that if you are disposed to listen, you may hear that it possesses as many wonders as the Derbyshire peak. The tradition of the neighbourhood informs you, that a shepherd once venturing to explore this extraordinary passage, discovered that in many places it was spacious and beautiful, abounding with crystal fountains and verdant meads; but afraid to proceed without company further, he reluctantly returned. Taking his faithful dog with him, he made a second experiment, but fell a sacrifice to his curiosity, never being heard of more. That after many days waiting to see if his master would awake, as they conjecture, the dog reduced for want of food to a mere skeleton, came

out alive on the sea shore. This like similar stories, proves that the mind, if not occupied with truth, must be the slave of error; and such too often serve to amuse the otherwise tedious hours of secluded people on a winter's evening.

Ascending the Tave we come to the ruins of Abba Landu, or the abbey of *White Land*. Founded according to Speed by Rhys ap Tewdwr, in the time of William the Conqueror, A. D. 1086, for monks of the Cistercian order; and is said by Powel to have been, after the dissolution of the British monastery of Bangor, the first of these institutions in the principality. It soon became a celebrated burial-place for the princes and chieftains of South Wales. And Cadwalader, son of Rhys ap Gryffydd among others, was interred here, A. D. 1187. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and in the time of Bernard, Bishop of St. David's, who was a great benefactor and had eight monks. The value at the Dissolution, according to Dugdale, was 135l. 3s. 6d. Some few traces of the building still remain, but they are small and indistinct till you approach very near the spot: and the surrounding woods have induced adventurers in trade, to invade this as well as other venerated spots, and an iron work called the forge, occupies the place once devoted to privacy and prayer. This abbey was erected upon the scite of a building of higher fame in the scale of antiquity. Ty-gwyn the palace and summer residence of the great Cambrian legislator, the Justinian of Britain, Howel Dha.

Here it was that the admirable code of laws which bear his name was collected, authorised, and promulgated. From the division of the kingdom into three principalities by Roderic the great, the turbu-

lency of the times, and the lapse of ages, many of the laws and statutes of the realm were become obsolete, and many more long unexecuted had lost their efficacy and weight. In an age when the destruction of each other seemed the prevailing desire, and when glory and reputation arose from the skill in extirpating our species; military prowess being the sole avenue to the temple of fame, we are pleased to find a character at the head of society deviating from the general track, and instead of breathing revenge and slaughter, employing his talents and his time in considering how the peace of society might be secured, and the good of mankind increased. Such a spirit appears divine amongst men; like a placid river amidst impetuous torrents, which, while they are deluging the country and sweeping every thing desirable away, rolls its salubrious waters in regular and beneficial order, distributing in its varied and collateral streams, fertility and comfort to all the country within its vicinity or influence.

Heir to the principality of South Wales, he had from the esteem that ever accompanies a just and upright administration, gained the sovereignty of Powis, then in abeyance. And on the death of Edward Fael, though he left sons, was by elective franchise preferred to the superior dignity, *The sovereignty of North Wales*. In those times of disorder, talents for government were sufficient to disannul hereditary right, and the voice of the people was frequently more prevailing than the trumpet of genealogy. In this and some other instances, the order of succession was interrupted, under a plea of necessity: and in this case no other opposition appeared than a few unavailing observations on right and

usage; and a few blunted arrows from the quiver of discontent. It has however been asserted by historians, that he was elected to the sovereignty of the whole country during the *minority and legal nonage* of his uncle Anarawd's sons, who, on the demise of their father, were considered too young to hold the reins of the North-Wallian government at so critical a period. And that Howel took the title and authority of *Brenhir-Cymry-all*, in trust for his kinsmen: and that when Edwal Fael became of age, on Howel's return from Rome, he resigned them both into the hands of Edwal, as the rightful heir. (Vid. Walton.)

But whatever may be said respecting the claim or ambitious usurpation of this prince, in annexing these portions of territory, and assuming the regal title, it was no more than had been done in prior exigencies, and in this case was a peculiar appeal of the people to their original constitution.

His early endeavours to promote the good of his subjects raised him to their esteem and confidence; and his unwearied attention to plans calculated for their advantage and future comfort will palliate, if not fully justify, his assumption of the *Triclinium*. Expediency is generally, I believe, considered under existing circumstances, to be the ground of morality in the political hemisphere; and leaving the point at issue to be settled by political casuists, we cannot help contemplating this prince as a prodigy in an age where little was thought of but revenge, and little executed but slaughter. While others were giving up to the lust of power, and placing right under the power of the sword; destroying order, undermining society, and burying its happi-

ness under the ruins ; this great man was boldly opposing the torrent of discord, repairing the breaches it had made, rallying the friends of order round the standard of peace, and shewing by experience that the protection afforded by a well-supported civil authority, is more than equivalent to the sacrifices of subordination. In such times as those in which he lived, to reduce his subjects to obedience, and make them sensible of the necessity of order and submission, was an Herculean task. But possessed with extraordinary wisdom, and influenced by the benign principles of the Gospel, he resolved upon the plan and executed the important work, *A new code of laws for the people of Wales.*

These laws, the admiration of the present, and the wonder of the age in which they were enacted, were not a *new code of innovations* ; they were a digest of the ancient laws and immemorial customs of the principality : the recorded wisdom of past ages, which through the confusion of the times and the unavoidable corruptions that years introduce, had failed to produce their wonted effects. *Nolumus leges Cambriæ mutari*, was as favourite a maxim of the British, as a similar one is of the English constitution. Nor can we sufficiently admire the spirit of wisdom, moderation, and piety which marked the commencement of this great undertaking. Having convened a national assembly, he first summoned the Archbishop of Menevia, the bishops, and principal clergy eminent for their learning and piety, the chieftains and barons ; and added six out of every commot distinguished by their virtues and talents. These constituted authorities assembled, the Prince, to implore the blessing of heaven on their councils,

commanded them to continue with him during the whole of Lent, at his palace of *Tygwim*. Having appointed twelve out of this august assembly, most esteemed for their wisdom and their gravity, as a special committee; he joined in the commission as chairman, Blegered, Archdeacon of Llandaff, distinguished for his abilities and knowledge of law. For the general outline of the system, they took the national laws, said to have been framed by *Molmutius*, who reigned in Britain 441 years before the Advent of Christ. (Vid. *Holinshed*.) The committee then entered on an investigation of the customs and usages of the country; they abolished such as were injurious; explained and amended such as were vague and unintelligible; and, by a proper examination and digest of the whole, formed a system admirably calculated for the genius of the people and the wants of the times.* The laws are mild, judicious, and humane; and, the manners of the times, and the state of society considered, they will not yield the palm of justice to those of any other nation of the same period. A comparative view of the codes then in force among the Saxons, the Irish, and the Franks, would not be an unpleasant or unprofitable investigation. Indeed whether we view the times that preceded, the nature of the laws themselves, or the mode in which the scattered scraps of judicial information were collected and incorporated

* This collection of laws is well known to the learned, having been published in 1730 by Wotton, under the title "*Cyfreithjeu Hywel Dda aceraill; seu leges Wallicæ ecclesiasticæ et civiles, Hoëli Boni et aliorum Walliæ Principum.*"

into system, we cannot but feel a respect and veneration. Previous to the time of which we treat, private rights had been little understood, and worse defined : and laws respecting them had been for the most part transmitted by oral tradition, and decisions given by local and manerial customs. The page of history is at this period filled with the nomenclature of princes, genealogical details on which their rights were founded, or dry chronological recital of their perpetual quarrels. Extracts of treaties violated as soon as concluded, and changes in the right of succession dictated by ambition and revenge ; which too frequently insulated their thrones with blood, without ameliorating the condition of their people. Every where the history of great men's families, and battles ; but no where of manners and laws, of arts and of commerce. The court and the army was every thing, while the nation at large, the great mass of the people, were nothing in the scale. Those formed the prominent features in the picture, while the rest, like objects in the back-ground, from the effect of distance, were lost in obscurity. For with emphasis might it be said of those times, *Jura et leges silent inter arma.*

The mode adopted to obtain this great object, bespeaks the wisdom of Howel : he was too wise to cast away the wisdom of ages with an impolitic and unbecoming licence ; and too pious not to avail himself of all the light afforded him in the art of government. In this view he may be held up as a mirror for future legislators and reformers : he foresaw how hasty projections of ancient laws and inveterate customs tended to anarchy and confusion, and the his-

tory of more recent, as well as more remote periods, evidently shews how much more it is conducive to the peace and happiness of nations to repair the old edifice than to erect a new one, and how much more eligible it is in this case, as well the one to which the poet alludes to,

“ ——— Bear the ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of.”

After the new code was finished, and ratified by the unanimous consent of the constitutional assembly, the archbishop denounced excommunication on all who should attempt to refuse the most unqualified assent and submission. Like an able politician, to obtain a greater veneration and respect for what might by some be considered as innovations, and to give them an equal authenticity with those of the neighbouring nations, the Prince, accompanied by the Archbishop of Menevia, the Bishops of Bangor and St. Asaph, and thirteen more persons of high distinction, made a journey to Rome, and obtained the sanction of the holy apostolic see to the new system of jurisprudence. On their return copies were made and distributed; but three, most carefully committed to writing, were deposited in the public archives of the kingdom: one at Aberfrow, the palace of the North Wallian Princes, another at Dinefawr, and a third intended for the use of the court, and the Judges of the household, was annexed to the moveables, and for the present left at Tygwyrn.

This, for an æra long before the invention of the noble art of printing, was a considerable promulgation, and those who could read might easily have access to these authentic documents for legal infor-

mation : and in this Howel deserves and demands imitation ; for surely the intention of statutes in favour of rights is for the repelling of injury, and these for the punishment of crimes, for the prevention of criminality. And how is this to be effected by retrospective information ? by ex post facto instruction ? No ! it must be by a general explanation of what is considered by the wisdom of the country as right and just, and the nature of those sanctions enacted for their violation. Publicity in all laws is the surest, is the only mode, to secure obedience ; and one lesson of previous instruction on the consequences of a crime is more effectual for its extinction, than a thousand victims offered upon the altar of retributive justice. In modern times, when one law has been constantly enacted to explain another, and statutes have multiplied beyond any conception that *voluminous* will reach ; when the necessary books for legal instruction form a library of themselves, and the means of information in the hands but of few whose interest it is to withhold it : the arguments in favour of some method of abridging them, particularly what are called penal statutes, and classifying and digesting the main points, so that the lowest may with facility learn what is the line of conduct they ought to pursue, become irresistibly great : for though we live in times when arbitrary power is considered no longer as sterling coin, and the rights of individuals, as a sacred deposit, committed to the trust of the governing party ; yet, through inattention to this essential point, *publicity in laws*, what a satyrst said of the emperor Caligula, I am afraid, will in some degree be applicable to modern legislators : That he

issued edicts in a morning, had them placarded in the day in so small a letter, and so high above the heads of the readers, that it was impossible to learn their nature or contents, and then hanged up his subjects at night for not having obeyed them. Howel, having lived to see his system of legislation generally received and executed, departed this life, A. D. 948; after long enjoying the less splendid, but more solid honours that result from peace, and an unwearied attention to the comforts of his people and the happiness of mankind; the subject of universal esteem while living, and veneration and regret when dead. As a testimony how much he was considered as superior to many other of the princes, and how much in our reflective moments we prefer urbanity of manners and regard to domestic tranquillity, to the tinsel of military prowess, and the turbulence of war, subsequent ages have bestowed the surname of *Dha*, the military and the pacific hero; for both are heroes of a different kind: the one, a meteor that strikes at the moment by its extraordinary appearance and dazzling glare; the other, a planet that cheers and comforts us by its steady and uniform distribution of light and heat. The mild disposition of this great prince produced a moderation in his conduct, which, if not the cause, was a just emblem of the peaceable state of his reign, few military events having disturbed his repose for forty years: the Saxons under Athelstan, Edwy, and Edred, having been fully employed to repel the invasions of the Scotch and the Britons of Northumberland and Cornwall. The Welsh at this time enjoyed a tranquillity alike unknown to the future as the past: this gave Howel an opportunity of turning his attention to the means of

internal reformation; the ameliorating the condition of his subjects and the good of mankind. But his code of laws is the best and highest eulogium on his memory, and will remain to the latest posterity a standing monument of his wisdom, moderation, and virtue: and if you will not allow him to be ranked with your classical legislators, Solon, Lycurgus, or Justinian, we must place his niche in the temple of fame near those of Alfred, Edgar, and Edward.

Pardon this digression, and I will relieve your spirits by a sight of the country. A few miles from Whiteland is the mountain called Cil-Maen-Llwyd, where the most rare and ancient coins of the higher and lower Roman empire have been discovered, including those of Cæsar and Domitian; and an oval camp, with a single foss and vallum, marks one of their stations here.

At a small distance, on a mountain on the banks of the Cleddy, is a circle of rude stones, about twenty yards in diameter; they are pitched on end at irregular distances, from three to six feet, and also of irregular heights, from four to seven feet: the present number is fifteen, but from the unequal distances it is probable that some have been removed. The entrance is guarded by stones of less height for about ten feet; and opposite this avenue, at the distance of two hundred yards, stand on end three other very large stones. This monument, in its form and other circumstances similar to what are termed the King's Stones, at Little Ralright, in Oxfordshire, was evidently a temple for Druidical worship; it is called by the country people, Bwrth Arthur; the British name is Meinen Gwyri, or

Gwiredd, i. e. *stones placed in a curve*; the latter, *stones of truth*. A single stone of this kind near Capel Caereg, in Caernarvonshire, called Maen Gwyr, seems to favour the latter interpretation. Passing a wild country we reached the small town of Narbeth, or Arbeth, which affords little to arrest a traveller's attention, but the ruins of its castle, distinguished during the contests between the Welsh and Flemings, by which latter people it appears to have been built. Our road lay through a tolerably wooded country for Wales, and leaving the collieries in the vicinity of Sander's-foot Bay on our left, we soon reached the town of Tenby*, situate on a ridge of rock that protrudes itself into the sea. Its position is extremely singular, spread over the steep and wooded sides of a long narrow neck of land, declivous on one side towards the sea, and on the other sloping to the tract of sand, which at high water insulates it from the western coast of Pembroke. The fine amphitheatre of its bay is formed by lofty limestone cliffs, rising abruptly to the west; and the harbour is included between the promontories of the Monstone rock and St. Catharine's Point. In Leland's time the whole vast curve from Caldy road to the Worm's Head, was comprehended under the appellation of *Sinus Tenbichus*: but this now goes by the name of Caermarthen Bay, and Tenby is confined within the above mentioned limits. It has of late years become a place of resort, and seems to have borne the bell from all the fashionable watering places of Wales; and during the summer months

* This, from the great quantity of fish frequenting the bay, is by the Welsh called Dinby Fisgoid.

the influx of strangers is very great, and the company generally respectable as well as numerous : indeed the convenience for bathing is great, and the accommodations good ; and the civility of the people, and the reasonableness of their terms, will not fail to insure a regular succession of visitors for this purpose to Tenby. The beach is covered with a fine sand, sheltered by the cliffs behind, and screened in front by a high rock rising out of the sea, affording a desirable seclusion to the persons bathing, while it protects the machines in boisterous weather. There are public boarding tables at moderate rates, and the lodgings are better and cheaper than at Swansea. Public assemblies are held once a week ; private balls frequent ; and at other times the amusements are bowling, archery, fishing, water excursions, and cards.

From its aquatic celebrity the town has experienced within these few years considerable improvement : but from the narrowness of the ridge, and its very abrupt declivities, the streets are inconveniently constructed ; and though embellished with many modern houses, others left in a dilapidated state give you the idea of a decaying, rather than an increasing place. The roofs all white-washed give a glaring appearance in a brilliant sun, painful to the eye ; and the modern spire of wood painted so as to imitate stone, with a huge brass weather-cock at top, and a bell hung outside, bespeak no great taste in the contrivers, and certainly does not accord with the venerability of a good old structure, the church, which from the architecture appears to be coeval with the castle. You will readily conceive that the walks can be few, and little varied : the one round

the castle, and another called the Croft, are all it can boast, except the road by which you enter the town, which is the same by which you must go out of it. An extreme scarcity of water prevails here in dry summers: what they use is to be had only at three miles distance. However, this is a circumstance not uncommon on the sea coast: and perhaps where pleasure is the object, and its sources few, this may furnish an additional scene of amusement. By those who have visited Weymouth, and witnessed the numerous scenes of different descriptions of people contending for priority in being served with this necessary article of life, *St. John's* will be considered the Upway of Tenby.

The port is small, defended by a short pier, built a few years since by subscription for the defence of fishing smacks and other small craft that lie moored within it. At this time it was probably only repaired, as Leland mentions a pier in his time, and observes that the town was very wealthy by merchandise. It contains sluices within its wall for the admission of spring tides, to cleanse the harbour of mud, which often accumulates in prodigious quantities. Had the pier been taken out to double the extent in a south easterly direction, Tenby would have been made a respectable harbour, and this inconvenience obviated in a great measure.

Leland says that the town was well walled and gated, and every gate had a portcullis of solid iron; and that which led towards Caermarthen was circled without with an embattled but open roofed tower, after the manner of the east gate at Pembroke, and had a suburb without the gate. "It had formerly twenty-four bastions, and a parapet walk

wholly round the town. A wall on one side only now remains, having seven bastions, the centre one being much larger than the rest. The castle, a small portion of which only is standing, was erected by the Flemings, but at what æra is uncertain. A. D. 1152, we hear of its being besieged, taken, and dismantled by Gryffydd ap Rhys, as a retaliation on Fitzgerald, the governor, who had laid a snare for the life of Cadell, younger brother of Rhys. The Welsh troops scaled the walls before the guard were alarmed, and the whole garrison, before they could be got under arms, were put to the sword. The Welsh decamped with the spoils, and it was re-fortified. But while the English army were engaged in the grand crusade to the holy land, Maelgon, son of Lord Rhys, collected all his forces, assailed Tenby, and carried away considerable spoils.

On the apprehension of a French invasion, application was made to Government for protection, it lying open to the pillage of any small privateer: accordingly it was defended by a battery on the pier head, and one of long eighteen pounders on each side the promontory.

It would be unpardonable in me to pass this place without recollecting that it gave birth to the intelligent monk, and directing companion in my travels, Gyraldus Cambrensis. He was the son of William de Barry, an Englishman, by his wife Angaredd, daughter of Nest, daughter of Rhys, Prince of South Wales, maternally descended of royal blood; on which double consideration he was hated both by Welsh and English; looked upon, as he himself observes, "*Oculo novercali.*" However, he deserved well of both. He paid a visit to Jerusalem;

surveyed Ireland ; and travelled through most parts of England and Wales, as the secretary and adviser of Archbishop Baldwin, and wrote a description of all ; and, allowing for the age in which he lived, he may be allowed to have been the first topographer of this or any other country. But merit is the retrograde way to preferment, except in the infancy of states, or in very difficult times. After using every lever of friendship and interest, he got himself into the archdeaconry of Brecon ; at length preferred to an Irish mitre ; and late in life got translated to the episcopal chair of St. David, where he died, and was buried in the cathedral, A. D. 1215.

A short distance from the shore is the small island of St. Catharine's, on which was a chapel dedicated to her memory, remarkable for having a passage under it which may be explored at the ebb of high spring tides ; and near it is the island of Lesser Caldey, yielding good grass for sheep, and abounding with rabbits, gulls, and other aquatic fowls. It is the property of the crown, as a portion of the manors of Manobere and Penally. This is sheltered by the island of Caldey, properly so called, formerly Inysper, or the island of Pyrrhus, who probably was the original proprietor. The distance from the nearest point of land, called Giltmore, is little more than a mile ; and the island is about half a mile wide, and a mile long. Here was once a priory, called *Lille* by Leland, and by Speed, Palla, a cell of St. Dogmael's for Benedictine monks of the reformed order of St. Martin of Turin, valued at the Dissolution, £52. 2s. 5d. Part of the original building is still remaining, incorporated with the farm houses belonging to a Mr. Kennaston, who lately purchased

the fee simple of the whole island: it is a fertile spot, yielding plenty of corn and grass; and the few inhabitants live, the land tax excepted, free of taxation, the case never having yet been decided whether it should be included in the adjoining hundred of the Main, or in that of Kemes, as a parcel of the lands of St. Dogmael's, to which it formerly appertained. This island* not only covers the port of Tenby from the gales of the Channel, but also forms between it and the main land a safe and convenient harbour for shipping, as two hundred sail might ride in safe anchorage, in from six to twelve fathoms water. But what this shore is most famed for is the incomparable *oyster fishery*. Though many countries are visited by this fish, yet our own coasts stand the first in fame: for when the Romans had tasted those of Britain, in spite of native prejudice, the oysters of the Lucrine Lake, according to Pliny, soon fell into disrepute: and you will recollect that Juvenal, in his usual incomparable style, when satirizing an epicure, says,

“ ———— Circæis nata forent an
 Lucrinum ad Saxum Rutupinove edita fundo
 Ostrea, callebat primo deprendere morsu.”

They were imported into Italy as early as the reign of Vespasian; and though they were at first imported into that country from the coast of Kent, as being that with which the Romans were then best acquainted, yet there is no doubt but they found the excellence of those of Tenby, as they extended their conquests westward; and the Tenby and Mil-

* On the rocks grows the elegant *Javatera arborea* and *ex-cubulus viscosus*.

ford are as eminent in the west, as the Milton and the Colchester are in the eastern part of the kingdom.

The oyster, *ostrea edulis* of Linnæus, is too well known for description ; for there is but one species, though so many varieties are distinguished according to the places where they are caught or fed, and so differently estimated according to their size or delicacy of flavour. This humble link in the chain of animated being is denied the faculty enjoyed by most other of the piscatory tribes, that of locomotion, and in this respect can claim little superiority to the vegetable tribes ; almost wholly passive, he endeavours to remain in one spot at the bottom of the ocean. Rocks, stones, and pieces of timber, sea wreck, every thing stationary seem to furnish him with a kind of security against the agitation of the waves. Indeed, so essential to oysters is this adhesion to some kind of fixture, and so prone are they to attach themselves, that, if they meet with nothing else, they will mutually adhere to each other : this is performed by means of a gluten, of a similar nature to that with which they form their shells, and when it becomes dry is of equal hardness, and broken with equal difficulty. Oysters cast their spawn in May ; it at first appears like small drops of fat, and is called spat, these immediately adhere to any kind of substance they happen to light upon ; in a few days the shell begins to make its appearance, and in three years they are fit for the market. Like snails they are hermaphrodite, and their young are spawned complete. Like other fish during the spawning season they are lean ; but by the month of August recruit their strength, and get into condition. Dür-

ing this, and subsequent to this season, in countries where prudent regulations have been made for their preservation, all dredging and other fishing has been prohibited : in Spain and some other southern countries of Europe, this prohibition is considered as a necessary precaution of health. It is an old observation that the oyster is in season in those months which include in their name the letter R ; at other times, being in a state of pregnancy, it is found to contain a thick white curdled matter like cream about the fish, which did not escape the observation of the accurate Pliny, lib. ix. c. 51. The old ones are frequently found with twenty or thirty of their young sticking to their back, these the fishermen scrape off and throw back to increase the beds. Severe winters and violent storms are highly injurious, and frequently destroy them. On this, as well as other accounts, property of this nature is very precarious ; as frequently they are not to be found where most plenteous before, and new oyster beds spring up in places where they were never known. Since the year 1712 multitudes have been taken in the Caernarvonshire Menai, where, prior to that period, it is recorded none were ever discovered. The report is, that a person threw into the channel about one hundred live oysters, which have increased several miles ; and numerous vessels are now employed in the fishery : but it is more probable the real cause was, the agitated waters carrying the spat from distant oyster beds during the spawning season. The oyster rests on his flat side ; so far he is secure, but on the convex side we discover various productions of the coral kind, and frequently he is loaded with small muscles and different marine worms :

even the nereis noctiluca, which gives the appearance of fire to the sea, deigns to become parasitical and revive its brilliancy by the support it derives from the humble oyster. These and others are continually sapping the external defence of this devoted animal, and by perseverance make breaches, by which they soon gain the citadel, his heart ! If not before occupied by the asteria glacialis,* sea star, and the nereis rufa, red worm, which without the least quarter are constantly preying upon his vitals. While thus attacked by various external and internal enemies, he is trepanned by the superior art of man, and exhibited as a delicious morsel at the tables of luxury,

A considerable difference arises with regard to the texture of the shell, and the flavour of its contents : where they lie on a calcareous bottom, the shells are friable ; on a rocky shore they become thicker and denser ; and on clay and marl they are softer, and contain a greater proportion of animal gluten. On the eastern side of the Adriatic all marine animals are more insipid than those which are found on the western side. On calcareous rocks they are larger, but not so high flavoured as those living in creeks and bays ; but those esteemed the most delicious are found on sands. Oysters lie at all depths : on what is called Ireland's Eye they are sought for in eighteen and twenty fathom water ; here on the shore of Caldey they are found from nine to twelve.

* This most formidable enemy, the star fish, is sometimes found in the shells fast closed, and in which no traces can be found of the original inhabitant, lying in it, coiled up in a circle, having fattened upon the spoils, and basking in the habitation of the innocent victim.

The fishery, though simple, is curious, and varies according to the depth of their stations, or the means of the fishermen. Some collect them with their hands; and others with a sort of long wooden tongs, or a rake of iron spikes affixed to the end of a large pole. But these methods can only be adopted in shoal water: the most common mode of fishing, and that adopted here, is what they call *dredging*, from the instrument used on this occasion, a *dredge*; this is a large triangular iron frame, the base of which is bent back about twelve inches, so as to form a rectangular scraper; to the opposite angle is affixed a length of rope, and over all is placed a net composed of leathern thongs, or iron wire. Equipped with several of these, they proceed in their boats over the oyster grounds, dislodging and collecting the oysters, often taking up the dredges as they fill, which is known by the weight, and discharging the contents into the hold of the boat. Numerous boats are occupied in this fishery, and most of the poor families here are employed in the trade, Tenby supplying the midland and western coasts of England with this article of luxury.

The Romans, to whom posterior nations have usually looked up for models of improvement, first taught the Britons to feed their fish in ponds, and fatten oysters in artificial beds. For the former purpose large reservoirs were formed about a century before Christ, at the different villas in the vicinity of Rome; and beds for the latter in the shores of Baia. The people of Tenby have not yet adopted this most profitable part of the trade, owing to their great distance from the metropolis, and the situation being inconvenient, unless they would combine

with those of Milford. The principal fattening beds are in the neighbourhood of Colchester, Pelton, and the banks of the Hampshire Menai. The spat is collected from the natural beds, and transplanted to the mud and slime which accumulates in these tide rivers: here the oysters soon grow large, and become very fat. That engendered on the Essex coast has hitherto been esteemed the best, and it is carried and deposited where the Colne forms a number of arms and small creeks, peculiarly adapted for this concern near Colchester. The Dutch, who have for centuries taken the lead in the fisheries, dig pits on the sea shore, furnished with small sluices for the admission of sea water to a certain height at spring tides: into these the oysters, when sufficiently fattened, are thrown, and left to undergo another process. The stagnant sea water soon becomes green, and the oysters assume the same colour. These in Holland are called *groen boardges*, and the oysters so served are esteemed as possessing superior delicacy. Similar pits are formed on the banks of the Colne and the Thames, and denominated *greening pits*. It has been a question how this colour is produced? Some have asserted, it is owing to green copperas: but this in any quantity would destroy the fish; others have attributed it to the marine plants, the *ulvas* and *tremellas*, particularly to a species of the latter genus, *tremella lactuca*, which in English, from this vulgar error, is denominated *oyster green*. But since the oysters are observed never to acquire this colour but in summer, it would rather appear to be occasioned by heat producing some decomposition of the salt contained in the sea water, and the decomposed ingredients coming in

contact with the sebaceous substance of the oyster, thus producing green fat like that of the turtle in tropical climates, which it nearly resembles both in appearance and flavour. Whatever may be the cause, it is highly probable the fish during this greening process suffers considerable pain, since in these pits the oyster has been observed to exhibit some signs of locomotion, shifting sides and lying when the tide flows with the convex side of the shell downwards.

While on the subject of luxury, my friend, I cannot help making comparisons. It has been observed, that the state of any nation may be known by an attentive examination of the progress of luxury; and that it may be inferred, whether it has yet arrived at, or passed the meridian of its greatness, and thus be foretold its future increase and glory, or declension and decay. Greece and Rome have been produced as examples to confirm this doctrine, and the latter nation has been proverbial for its extravagance of appetite. The ancient satirists have often employed their wit on this subject, and their historians entered into detail on the objects of their luxury. Aulus Gellius recites a curious fragment from Vazzo, in which he enumerates the delicacies of the table, and the proper items for a Roman feast; and then subjoins that all people of taste would procure at any price the respective articles, from those places most famed for producing them in perfection. "Peacocks from Samos; woodcocks from Phrygia; swans from Melica; goats from Ambrocia; tunny from Chalcedon; lampreys from Tortesia; cod from Tessinantia; oysters from Tarentum; cockles from Chios; sturgeon from Rhodes; scar from Cilicia;

nuts from Thrace; dates from Egypt; chesnuts from Hyberica, &c. &c. After such an enumeration (and the list might have been greatly enlarged) and when it is taken into the account that many of these places were far distant from Rome, and the procuring them consequently difficult and expensive, we cry out, what folly! what luxury! what ridiculous and wanton profusion, to pamper and pall the corporeal appetite! No wonder after this if we hear of her decline and fall. Whether we are arrived at the zenith of our power, and the acme of our greatness, time only can discover. Do we not talk of our Cambridge butter, our Norfolk turkies, our Milton oysters, our north-sea cod, our Welsh mutton, our Severn salmon, our Worcester Lampreys, our Dutch tongues, our Westphalia hams, our Parmesan cheese, our French olives, our Messina oranges, our Tokay and Cape wines, our Jamaica rum, our Leeward Island turtle, &c. &c.

“ *Nomine mutata de te fabula narratur.*”

I am, Yours, &c. J. E.

LETTER X.

DEAR SIR,

A Circumstance peculiarly striking meets the eye of the observant traveller on his entering the county of Pembroke; which is the difference in the dress, manners, and language of the inhabitants from those of their immediate neighbours. I before observed, that a colony of Flemings had been planted here by the policy of the first Henry; and

another of the same people, incorporated with them by the sagacious Henry II. To these were occasionally added numerous Anglo Normans from the English armies, as well as marauding adventurers on this newly acquired territory. At first they were confined to the hundred or commot of Rhos; which still more particularly retains the appellation of *Little England beyond Wales*. But the numbers accumulating with years, they soon spread along the whole coast, from the lordship of Comes to the mouth of the Tave. This country is still divided into what is called the *Englishery* and *Welshery*; the latter containing the original inhabitants, consists of the cantreves of Comes, Cilgercan, part of Arberth and Cewisland: the former comprising the other part of Arberth, the cantreves of Rhos, Castel Martin, and Dougledy. In the former are many great families, which still preserve their descents and inherit the ancient seats and demesnes of their ancestors: for although it is asserted that Comes and Cilgerran were conquered by Martin de la Tours, and nominally so, at a subsequent period by Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke; yet as they appear to have possessed the same spirit displayed by their neighbours on similar occasions, their resistance was noble and determined, and their submission more the effect of *compromise than conquest*. So that many of *them* were permitted to hold their estates and live in the exercise of their laws and customs, which was not the case in many other parts, where immediate confiscations took place, the inhabitants driven out, and Normans and English placed in their room. That the men of Comes obtained more eligible terms from the invader, evidently appears to have been owing

to the spirited opposition he met with here, for he was induced to shelter his violence under a pretended right derived by his marrying, for this very purpose, Angharad daughter of Rhys, Prince of South Wales. This was the only step which could have prevailed upon them to have accepted any terms, however liberal, at the hands of an usurper. This marriage acted as a salvo to the consciences of the irritable but unsuspecting Welsh, who considered this not as a submission to the descendant of the rapacious Norman; but to the blood royal of their lawful and hereditary princes. Respecting Dewisland, this being granted to the bishop of St. David's, the military considered it sacrilegious and an impious offence to attempt any thing either hostile or oppressive against the possessions of the church: therefore the inhabitants of this district remained quiet, while their neighbours were grievously harassed and distressed.

The Flemings were generally considered as a hardy, industrious, and adventurous people, well skilled in trade and addicted to merchandise; and monuments still remain of their knowledge and industry. From the very commencement of their career, they were from necessity engaged in warfare with the natives. Constant antipathies would therefore arise, and national prejudices be confirmed; and though for centuries they have been united by law, yet they still continue two distinct people: while their language and manners form a striking contrast, they appear determined to exhibit their different origin in their modes of dress. That of the women in the Welsh part is a jacket and petticoat of checked worsted, or lindsey wolsey stuff, with a cap tied under the chin, and a large, broad brimmed, high-crowned, beaver.

hat : while that of the women of this part of Pembrokeshire is a thick heavy cloth gown and petticoat, with a hood hanging from it behind, generally of a dark colour, and instead of a cap, a large handkerchief wrapped about the head and tied under the chin : sometimes they wear over it a shallow crowned beaver hat, similar to the milk maids of Gloucester and Somerset. If the addition of a cloak become necessary, they throw over their shoulders a whittle of the same heavy cloth with the gowns, but generally white or scarlet. Nor are they, like the Welsh, fond of going barefoot; wearing thick shoes and stockings, and studiously avoiding shewing either naked legs or naked feet. Their mode of living is different also: while the Welsh peasant is content to live on bread and cheese, with milk or milk and water for his usual beverage; the peasant of this district like those of England, requires a good allowance of shambles meat, and a plentiful supply of fermented liquor.

The names of persons and places are like those of England, as Williamstown, Norton, &c. * The inclination and temper of the two people is equally striking, and equally adverse. Fuller facetiously observes, " that the disposition of the Welsh is like the face of the country, full of elevations and depressions; of a gunpowder quality, so as to blow up, before it

* There is not perhaps a better criterion to fix the line of demarcation between the original inhabitants and the Norman and Flemish settlers, than the different style of their buildings, particularly in their churches, which in the parts the latter took possession of, are uniformly ornamented with the addition of towers or spires; while those of the former, like most British churches, are undistinguished by any external decoration.

can be discovered that the match is applied, and the women are more apt to catch than the men." It is, on the contrary, evident to persons conversant with the natives of this part of Pembroke, that they are composed of less turbulent elements than those of the other part of the principality. These, if possible, seek peace, hating contention and avoiding litigation, to which the Welsh are to a fault addicted: whence this great difference arises I leave to the determination of those who account for degeneracy from a want of crossing the breed; or to those who maintain that there is an essential difference of temperature, ab origine, both in nations as well as individuals. Not a word of Welsh is to be heard in this part, and the English here spoken is very little different from the common dialect of England, except in some parts of Rhôs and Castle Martin. The two people avoid all commerce with each other, so as not to buy or sell but in open fairs; and a pathway will divide them in the same parish. To such an extent is the detestation of each other carried among the lower orders of the people, that a matrimonial connection between the opposite parties is considered a misfortune to both families: hence cases have arisen at the assizes for the county attended with great inconvenience; for it has occurred, upon a jury, that one half could not understand the other, and when explained to them, they have refused to concur in giving a verdict; and instances have been recorded where they have fasted three days together, before they have been reduced to a compromise of unanimity:

"*Tantæhe animis cœlestibus iræ!*"

We ascended a high ridge of table land, over which for ten miles lies the public road, which without exception may be considered as the best in the kingdom, and unobstructed by the bar of a turnpike. Indeed in traversing both England and Wales it is observable, where toll-gates are most frequent the roads are generally the worst ; where fewer, better ; and where fewest, best of all. The roads in many parts of the kingdom will corroborate the former observation, and those of Caernarvonshire and Pembroke will justify the latter.

The views from this natural terrace are prodigiously fine towards the sea, but little interesting towards the land. They are extensive, but the eye becomes fatigued in looking over a dreary country, undiversified by hills and dales, and unenriched with wood and water ; and it is only relieved by extending its ken to the mountains of Percelly, and a range of subordinate hills, which form a natural boundary between the cantreves of Dewisland and Kemes.

Leaving the castle of Manwbwr on our left, and the castellated mansion of Carew on our right, we descended to the ruins of Lantphey, formerly a palace belonging to the see of St. David's, great part of which was erected by Bishop Gower, 1335, During the civil wars it was nearly destroyed. The great hall, with another spacious apartment, the chapel, and one round tower with an open parapet at top, are still visible. It was originally surrounded with a moat, and the south gate, with its drawbridge, still remain. This, with its annexed manor, were alienated by Henry VIII. in favour of William Devereux, Earl of Hereford, whose heirs sold it to Hugh Owen, Bart. of Orielton, in whose family

the property is still vested. A mile brought us to the county town of Pembroke, which derives its name from its situation, being built at the *head of the tide*.* It at present consists of one long street, extending from the east to the west gates; and on the north side are its market-place, church, and castle. The houses at the east end of the town are most of them mean and low, and many in a ruinous condition, the trade having declined so that it is little more than half inhabited. From its situation on a rocky oblong promontory, Mr. Windham compares it with Edinburgh: the resemblance, however, did not strike us. The elevation continuing from the Milver Dyke to the river, composed of an impervious limestone, occasions at times a scarcity of water; the town being supplied by a common conduit, with a turncock, near the church. It is a corporate town, governed by a mayor, assisted by two bailiffs, and sends one member to the British parliament. Whether this was ever a Roman station has not yet been ascertained: it is, however, highly probable, as Roman coins of the late Emperors have been dug up, and a curious stone, fifteen feet long, nine wide, and two thick, has been lately discovered, having British characters raised, with the letters reversed upon it, equally executed as in the best times of Rome. It appears to have been done

* A small creek comes up from Milford Haven, called Pen-narmouth. The entrance, between rock and rock, is but 200 yards at high water, and at low water but 102, and from nine to twelve feet deep. It is the opinion of skilful men that this creek at a small expence might be made a dock sufficient to contain all the shipping of England, and would be the first thing of the kind in the world. Vid. L. Morris.

about the fourth century, and is supposed to have been a model of an alphabet for engravers, from which they might copy those letters they expected in a legible word, after the impression was taken from the wood or stone of any monument or inscription. Our British ancestors certainly acquired the art of imprinting words from the Romans; and though this knowledge has little connexion with the art of printing with moveable types, yet the real effect from impression is the same in both. Gyraldus informs us, that Arnulph de Montgomery, brother to Robert, Earl of Shrewsbury, built the castle in the time of Henry II. but very meanly, with ramparts formed of *stakes and turf*, which on his return to England he delivered to the custody of Gyraldus, Lieutenant General and Constable of the castle of Windsor, who shortly after, with a small garrison, was besieged in it by the united forces of North and South Wales: but such was the noble resistance made by him and his courageous party, that the besiegers were repulsed with great loss; who after laying waste the whole country with fire and sword, departed without attacking Pembroke, and left this small defence as an impregnable fortress: so little at that period were military tactics understood, or so decidedly advantageous must have been the situation of the place. The present castle, standing on a precipitous limestone rock, which overhangs the river navigable for small vessels to the town, was most probably erected by the aforementioned Gyraldus, as the architecture is Norman, and he is said to have fortified both the town* and castle.

* Leland says, " The town was walled, and hath three gates,

The entrance into the latter is between two immense round towers, and which had three portcullises of solid iron. The chapel where Henry VII. was born, is called the Queen's nursery, the curious wainscot of which is said to have been perfect within the memory of some old inhabitants; to this adjoins the dungeon tower; and west of this is a very large round tower, called the double tower, having walls fifteen feet thick, the area within twenty five, and crowned at top with a cupolated stone roof. In the west wall is another round tower, with a sally port, near which was discovered lately, in digging, a quantity of leather money; hence is a natural cavern, termed the Hogan (from *ogo*, a cave), immediately under the chapel, opening into the river. Between this cavern and the castle, is a communication by a staircase outside the rock, barricadoed by a strong wall, in which is still a large door-way opening to the river. The cavern is circular, and more than fifty feet in diameter, and the height equal in proportion. Near is shewn another natural cavern, which our Cicero informed us reached to Tenby: such stories are too general for unqualified belief; we recommended his making the subterraneous journey, and we would meet him at the end of it. The almost inaccessibility of the scite of this fortress, and its artificial strength, must in those times have rendered it nearly impregnable; and indeed such it was for a long period considered; for when the

est, west, and north; of whiche the est gate was the forest, having an open compassed tower, in the entrance of whiche was a portcullis of solid iron, (*ex solido ferro*.)" It. v. 5. Great part of the ancient walls, and a few of the circular towers still environ the town.

Welsh were successful in despoiling many others in the neighbourhood, they seldom ventured to attack this : consequently it has experienced much less of the changes attendant on such turbulent times than its more imbecile neighbours : except a serious siege under Llewelin, scarcely any thing of note is recorded. During the civil wars it was early occupied and repaired by the parliamentary forces, 1648 : Colonels Langhorne, Powel, and Payer, considering themselves neglected by the parliament, intended to declare for the King, as soon as they should hear that the Scots army had entered England. The unexpected arrival of a new Governor anticipated their design : but though ill provided with provisions and ammunition, and deserted by their friends who had promised their assistance, they gallantly defended the town and castle for four months : nor was it till Cromwell himself appeared before the place with strong reinforcements, and their stores were entirely exhausted, that they submitted to a surrender. The two former, it is supposed, escaped by connivance, but Payer was beheaded as a traitor, in Covent Garden, and the castle was consequently dismantled. In one of the areas of the castle, now used as a bowling-green, have been frequently found round stones like pebbles, said to have been fired toward the latter part of the siege, their balls being exhausted. On the opposite side of the creek is a considerable suburb, joined to the town by a long narrow bridge, called Monkton, from a priory founded here by Arnulph, Earl of Pembroke, A. D. 1098, for monks of the order of St. Benedict, a cell at first to the abbey of Sieyes in Normandy, afterwards to the abbey of St. Alban's in Hertfordshire,

valued at the Dissolution £57. Some ruins of the building are yet extant : part of the church and the refectory are used as a granary, called the **Monk-house**. It is said, that during the siege of the castle under the parliamentary forces, the most effectual trenches were opened in the church-yard ; and a small eminence near a farm house, at a considerable distance, is shewn also as the spot : the latter probably was a covering battery during the erection of the other.

We were now upon the verge of the long and justly admired haven of Milford, considered as the most spacious and secure of any in Europe, and which surely ought to be the pride of a country that owes both greatness and security to her maritime power; a haven in which the whole navy of Great Britain might ride at single anchor in all weathers. It contains five bays, thirteen roads, and sixteen creeks : nor can any thing be more expressive of its safety for shipping, than the brief description contained in an old couplet :

“ Here circling banks the furious winds controul,
And peaceful waves with gentle murmurs roll.”

At a small distance from Pembroke the various branches of this celebrated harbour ramify like so many fibres into the interior of the country, and, met by kindred streams, unite in one grand basin of several miles extent, forming the finest piece of land-locked water in the united kingdom. Its length, from the great ferry beyond Pembroke to the southern point of Nangle, is ten miles. The breadth very unequal ; but in several places from two to three miles. The tides flow up its various creeks to a much greater extent northerly, as far as Carew Castle. At the

entrance of the haven on Nangle Point is a small village, or rather hamlet, with a house furnishing miserable accommodations for numerous passengers to and from Ireland and other places, who are obliged to put in frequently to wait for weather. Here are the ruins of a small castle and nunnery ; and on the opposite point of St. Ann's, a small light house and blockhouse. The haven immediately widens towards the land, forming a vast extent of water that puts on the appearance of a grand American lake. The mildness of its wave, the transparency of its waters, and the softness of its surrounding scenery, give it a title to the beautiful, if not to the sublime. About the centre of the western side of the haven is the small village of Hubberstone* Haiken, forming, with the opposite shore of the creek, what is called the port of *Milford*, which carries on a small trade in coals, corn, and limestone, to different parts of the coast and Ireland, to which country this was formerly the only port of passage. Two packets have lately been established here for Waterford, which has given the place some small degree of consequence ; and a spacious and elegant hotel and inn has been erected on the north side of the creek, for the reception of persons who may be detained on their passage. The accommodations of this house, which was much wanted, do credit to the projector, the agent of Sir William Hamilton, and at the same time reflects credit on the public spirit of his employer. The distance

* Near this place is the ruin of a priory, not noticed by Dugdale or Tanner ; the remaining gateway of which exhibits elegant workmanship, and is very accurately delineated in Grose's Antiquities.

from port to port is twenty-three leagues ; but what renders it particularly convenient as a station of this sort, is the facility with which the packets can sail, being able to get out with almost any wind, except in violent stormy weather. It was this induced the immortal bard to put into the mouth of the fair Imogen :

——— “ Speak—how far it is
To this same blessed Milford ; and by the way
Tell me how Wales was made so happy as
To inherit such a haven.”

Cymbeline.

But the importance of Milford to this realm, and the serious consequences of its loss, have not been sufficiently considered, or more would have been done for its defence. It is the opinion of men of the first military talents, that in case the French were ever to invade Great Britain, they would commence by a descent on the coast of Cardigan or Pembroke ; endeavour to throw the country into an alarm, and in the interim to secure by redoubts the haven of Milford : or if they attempted to dismember Ireland, as lately they have done, they cannot hope of success while we have a navy, but by securing to themselves this harbour. According to the well-known proverb, though ancient, true,

“ He that England will win,
Must with Ireland begin.”

The Haven once occupied, they would soon put the town and castle of Pembroke in a state of defence, and we have seen what an important post this was during the long contests between the English and the Welsh. The soil about the haven is fertile, yielding abundance of corn, and the creeks afford a

constant supply of fish, objects of importance as a supply for an invading army; and it stands well for receiving fresh supplies from the north of France. And when it is further considered, that there are in this county eighteen castles, many of which at an easy rate might be repaired and put in a state fit for formidable defence, with numerous ramparts of earth and ditches thrown up on almost inaccessible heights, forming impregnable places, were they once to get footing it would require a powerful force effectually to dislodge them. In possession of this Haven they would soon be masters of the seas, so as to harass our trade in the St. George's and Bristol Channels; and be able to commit perpetual depredations on our western shores. It is also situate *within seven hours sail of Waterford and Wexford*; and though our navy should still continue to be superior at sea, yet here they would find a secure retreat from storms and defeat, as no land forces would be able to expel them. These and many more weighty considerations were submitted to the Lords of the Admiralty, by the principal gentlemen of this county, so early as the reign of Elizabeth, and often since; but the precarious state of Ireland during the American war, and the dangerous state of it in the late horrid rebellion; and the yet determined views of our inveterate enemy France to alienate this portion of the British empire, place these considerations in a much stronger point of view, and afford additional reasons for constituting this the *third*, if not the *first* of our naval stations. Had this been made a rendezvous for a few sail of the line and frigates during the late unhappy disturbances in that miserable country, the French army under General Humbert, would never

have been able to have made good a landing, nor in all human probability to have escaped the vigilance and zeal evinced by our brave admirals and captains on that memorable occasion. In consequence of the remonstrances to the admiralty above-mentioned, a surveyor and engineer by the name of *Ivy*, was sent down to make observations on the capability and plan of defence, and give in his reports; but his stay was short, and his survey soon ended. There is a place now called the *Ivy Tower*, the residence of a Mr. Williams, where report says the voluptuous surveyor found a magnet of greater attraction than any prospect of distant fame; and an object of much more valued importance to himself, than any which could be afforded by the future security of the harbour of Milford.

In the year 1759, an act passed the house for erecting fortifications in the interior part of the Haven, as Peterchurch, West Lanyon, and Neyland; not, it is said, for preventing the enemy's ships from entering the haven, but to secure the inward harbour, and to provide against distresses similar to those experienced at Cherbourg and St. Maloes during the war preceding the last two. Ten thousand pounds were expended on the port of Neyland alone, which to this hour remains unfinished. This expensive chain of fortifications has incurred much censure and ridicule, from their position at the bottom or further end of an extensive bay or haven, while the principal points remain undefended. When the job was accomplished, the notion of their importance vanished, and the works have since been neglected, and remain only to shew the imbecility of the contriver, and the absurdity of the plan.

Positions for annoyance or defence were perhaps never better understood in this kingdom than they were centuries ago; and the scite of a castle at Nangle would have pointed out, *if the situation itself had not*, that spot as the first to an engineer. Indeed it did not escape the eye of the vigilant administration of Elizabeth. During the threatened invasion by the Spanish Armada, two forts were erected on the two points of Nangle and Dale, as may be seen in old Speed's maps; but it does not appear they were ever completely finished, owing probably to the abundant security and confidence derived from the total overthrow of that formidable expedition by the prowess of our navy. The situation, however, was well chosen, since a vessel by being obliged by these forts to bring to, before she is well in the mouth of the haven, may either drive ashore on the rocks and be lost, or at least by this mean be unable to gain the harbour. A small fort also might be erected on the *Stack*, and another on *Sandy Haven Point*, which would command the entrance of the haven; and not be liable to any objection from the prejudice that they would injure our own shipping. Floating batteries also might ride in safety below those points. Of the necessity of defending an outer as well as inner harbour, the affair of Toulon is a sufficient reason and exemplification. With regard to the importance of this haven, its different roads and creeks, and suggested improvements, I must refer you to a very judicious and interesting work, (Lewis Morris's Survey of the Coasts and Harbours of Wales.)

An excursion up the harbour brought us to the fork or tongue of land formed by the confluence of

the two rivers, Cleddeu, whence the hundred takes the name of Ducleddy. On this point is the castle of Ros, an old seat of the Owen family; and higher up, on the ostiary of the Eastern Cleddy, invironed with noble woods, stands *Picton Castle*, the handsome seat of *Lord Milford*. It was built by William de Picton, a Norman baron, in the time of William Rufus, and having escaped the fate of most other castles in Wales, even during the age of dismantling and demolition, *the civil wars*, has always been inhabited. The apartments are magnificent, and considerable alterations have been lately made, but it is always disgusting to the eye of taste, to observe ancient and modern architecture blended together in the same edifice. Perhaps our forefathers studied grandeur at the expense of comfort too much, we certainly run into the contrary extreme; and it is more to be desired than expected, that these should ever perfectly coalesce. The extensive plantations form a rich outline to the haven, and the adjoining seat of Mr. Phillips at Slebitch* is not the least prominent feature in the lovely picture. We now crossed to the opposite side to Nayland, where sugars are discharged, and pay the duty at the custom house of Pembroke. Here are some considerable salt works which some centuries ago were of much more consequence than at present; for A. D. 1259, the Welsh overrun the county of Pembroke, and considered the salt they found here the most desirable booty. (Vid. Powel.)

* Here was a commandery founded by the two brothers Walter and Wisa for Templars, and when that order became unfashionable, they were changed into Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

At this haven, near Dale, landed Henry Earl of Richmond, on his return from France, with the view of putting in his claim to the crown of England, which he obtained after the total defeat of Richard the III. in the celebrated battle of Bosworth Field. Originally of Welsh extraction, he principally owed to his countrymen, by consanguinity, the success of his enterprize. After the nation appeared in some measure prepared, by the cruelties of Richard and the promises of Henry, for a counter revolution, Rice ap Thomas having conferred with many of his friends, Morgan of Kidwelly, the bishop of St. David's, and the abbot of Talve; but especially with his prophet, *Robert of the Dale*, he repaired with his friends and followers, including, besides infantry, upwards of two thousand horsemen well mounted, to this part of the haven: riding himself on an invincible charger called *Lwyd bexe* or *grey fetter locks*, proud of the opportunity to shew his influence among his countrymen, and the loyalty of his country for the person they considered as their lawful sovereign. Here meeting the Earl of Richmond who had arrived with a few French forces, he with open arms received him, and on bended knee made him an offer of his service and troops.* But a ceremony was to

* Of these services Henry was not unmindful after his accession to the throne. Considering Rys ap Thomas as the principal instrument, used under Providence for the recovery of his right; he seized every opportunity of shewing that gratitude does not derogate from the dignity of a king. He visited Rys at Ty Gwyn, restored his son Howel who had been an hostage to Richard; and at Talycarn formally appointed him chief justice of South Wales. Henry repealed many of the sanguinary and oppressive statutes made in former reigns against the Welsh, and granted them further privileges and immunities. And it was ge-

be performed on this occasion, as humiliating to the haughty spirit of Rice, as it is illustrative of the horrid doctrine of dissimulation then taught by the ministers of religion. Rice professed himself not only an orthodox believer in Christianity, but also a devotee to the duties it enjoined. He had taken an oath of allegiance to Richard, drawn up in singular but energetic language : that no person inimical to the king should land at Milford without passing over his belly. In the memorable contest, the assistance of Rice was earnestly coveted by both parties, and some of his friends thinking the issue would be doubtful, advised him to do as Valerius Festus did between the opposing Emperors Vitellius and Vespasian : urging that the safest plan is to moor your vessel at *double anchor* during uncertain weather or impending storms. Rice, however, inclined to the side of Richmond, but the grand difficulty was to silence the voice of that internal monitor, which it appears he had been accustomed to regard with due reverence : and which will at times obtain attention to his remonstrances, in spite of every opposing effort of ourselves. No motive of *public utility* appeared of sufficient weight to cancel the obligation of a solemn oath. The friends of the Earl were well aware of the difficulty, and they accordingly employed the strongest means in their power to remove it : his principal friends urged the necessity of the commonwealth to rid it of an odious tyrant ; that it might with his concurrence be effected with facility ;

generally thought that he instituted the public inquiry into his pedigree, which was traced up to Owen Tewdwr, more with a view to conciliate the good opinion of the Welsh, than to ascertain thereby his right to the crown.

and that it would confer honour upon himself, and ultimately tend to the glory of God. Still the previous offer of service, and the sanction of the obligation would revert, and persuasion failed of the desired effect; but the Bishop of St. David's and the Abbot of Talye, by reiterated applications, at length prevailed. They represented, that a king *in esse*, without a just title, was no king: that to a tyrant we owe no more allegiance, than we do faith to an heretic or infidel: that a vow was legitimate or illegitimate, to be kept or broken, according to the foundation on which it stands; and that to break an inconsiderate vow is more commendable than to perform it; and as a case in point, the conduct of David to Abigail respecting Nabal was on this occasion urged as an example. The promises made to Richard they represented as highly honourable to dispense with, and the prostration of his body to their rightful sovereign, as by no means disparaging to the dignity of Rice. Satisfied at length with the conjoint opinions of these divines, he received absolution at the hands of the bishop, wrote to offer his services to the Earl, and attended on his arrival to perform the farcical ceremony. Laying himself down prostrate on the ground, he suffered the Earl to walk over his body*; and being instantly raised by

* There is a tradition in the country which contradicts the fact as here stated, and agrees better with the kind of casuistry used by Rice's spiritual advisers on this occasion. That he did not suffer the Earl of Richmond literally to pass over his belly; but that in consequence of the declaration he made to Richard, as a salvo to his conscience, he went and stood under the arch of a small bridge called Mulloch Bridge near Dale, over which the passage lay, remaining under till the Earl had crossed.

him, was congratulated by all present on thus getting rid of his execrable oath. What the nonjuring divines, in the time of James and William, would have said to this need not be told. It will occur to you that if the parties had done as the enemies of the unfortunate Charles maliciously observed he did, "read Sanderson de Obligatione Juramenti, with a view how with safety to break an oath," they could not have been better informed in this sort of casuistical dissimulation. Proceeding towards Haverfordwest, we soon found ourselves environed with collieries. Coal may be considered as a very important article here, the country having been stripped of its principal wood: this part furnishes an abundant supply of it, very superior in quality to that of many other parts of the kingdom, yielding little smoke, and emitting no disagreeable smell. It is highly valued for the drying of malt, being preferable to charcoal, fern, or straw; and is even sent to London for the use of the parlour.

We were struck with a curious geological circumstance in viewing these mines: the lodes, or veins, of coal lie between two lodes of limestone, in a bearing from west to east through this county, and apparently extending through South Wales over the Severn sea, through a considerable part of England in the same direction; an observation we shall establish by a variety of facts within our own knowledge, as well as those made by others at a future period. This doctrine will certainly oppugn many present received notions; particularly one about to be published, "*That mineral veins lie generally from north to south, and that the several strata of various soils follow a similar direction, as a proof that the*

waters on retiring from the earth after the deluge, did so in a course from east to west."

Formerly the digging of coals was a very simple process. The shafts were made on inclined planes, and the coals were carried in baskets upon stayers, termed landways. Where the coals lay near the surface of the ground, this was attended with little inconvenience; but since they have found the best coal at twenty and thirty fathoms deep, they have adopted a method used in other deep collieries, that of sinking a perpendicular shaft about six or seven feet in diameter, and drawing up the coals in baskets by a rope and winch, turned by four men or women: In a few places they make use of a machine called a jenny, worked by a small horse drawing in a circular direction. This shaft is here called a *downright door*. The coal is first found by a small appearance of it, which is termed an edge; this found, they inquire for the dip, and according to its inclination they work, always commencing in an opposite direction. The veins are for the most part five or six feet thick, and in digging they leave about a foot of coal in the bottom, unless they find a *door stone*, as they term it; that is, a rock under the strata. In some places, where the veins run thicker, they leave pillars of coal at short intervals for the support of the incumbent strata, if it be of a rocky nature; if not, it is supported by the application of poles of oak, or other timber. The mine contains diggers and bearers: the first, men who, by candle-light and in a sitting posture, with pickaxes dig out the coals; the second, consisting of women and children, who carry the coals in baskets, each an allotted distance, relieving each other till it is borne by the last to the

door of the pit, where it is landed by the methods abovementioned. The coal dug is either *ore*, *sling*, or *slatch*: the first and best is found in large veins; the second and inferior generally in small perpendicular veins, dipping between two rocks; the third is an immense large isolated coal, discovered by itself. In the narrow parts of the veins is much of small coal and culm, which are separated from the stone coal by riddles or sieves: the small coal is used by the smiths, and the culm is used for the burning of lime. The time the men work is from six to six, resting an hour at noon; but they are very tenacious of reputed holidays, now become obsolete with other trades; nor can you persuade them such a waste of time is both injurious to themselves and the community. During the winter months the sudden springs are frequently very troublesome; but the mode of draining has experienced here but little improvement. Where the situation of the ground will admit, levels are driven into the sides of the hills, which form commodious drains; but where this is not attainable, vertical shafts are sunk right under the door, from which the superfluous waters are raised by the same machines as the coals are delivered.

Though put to much inconvenience this way, yet the workmen dislike the summer months much more; being then subject to what they term the *fire damp*, which consists of a collection of hydrogenous gas, which being set at liberty, and meeting with the oxygen contained in the atmosphere, explodes by means of the candles by which they work, and often suffocates the whole party. Its approach is observable by the candles emitting a blue flame, and gra-

dually growing dimmer, when they attempt to make their escape, but too often without being able to effect it. The appearance is like a small smoke, about the size of a man's hand, and if any one had the presence of mind to put a foot upon it, or extinguish the candles, this formidable enemy would be defeated: but from the impressions made on the minds of these people by the numerous fatal stories they have heard, the *fire damp* is considered an invincible foe, and which can be escaped only by instantaneous flight. Indeed, when we reflect on the various accidents to which colliers are exposed from these and other causes, it is surprizing how men are found to engage in the hazardous undertaking, especially when the smallness of the emoluments and the nature of the employment are compared together. Witnessing some of these poor creatures ascending out of the pits, just emerging *ab inferis ad lucem*, as black and forbidding in their aspect as the region they had just left, it afforded us abundant reason to reflect on the obligations we were under to a kind Providence, in not being obliged to earn the necessaries of life so far below the surface we trod on, and exempt also from the numerous accidents to which these our fellow creatures are exposed. Nor was it possible to see these apparently wretched beings enjoying content and indulging in cheerfulness, without recollecting how often we have been perversely unhappy, and considering it as a proper lecture upon our too often unreasonable wishes, and our indecent ingratitude. With such, I trust useful, reflections we entered the most populous and gay town in South Wales, Haverfordwest, called by the Welsh Hwlfordd, seated on a precipitous rock,

which overhangs the Western Cleddy. The river is navigable up to the quay for vessels of two hundred tons burthen. It carries on a considerable trade, being the principal depôt in this part of the kingdom. The trade seems upon the increase, and the inhabitants in a flourishing condition. The streets are narrow, and inconvenient from their declivity; but the houses are good, and the shops neat, and it may be considered, as it is termed, the modern capital of the county. It is a county corporate of itself, governed by a mayor, sheriff, town clerk, two bailiffs, and a sergeant at mace; and sends one member to the British senate. The mayor, during his mayoralty, is coroner, clerk of the markets, and escheator within the precincts of the borough. It is also the seat of the grand and petty sessions; and opulence and comfort are more apparent here than in most of the towns in the principality. The town, fortified with walls, bastion towers, and a strong castle, was built by Gilbert, Earl of Clare, in the time of Stephen; and Camden says, that Richard, Earl of Clare, made Richard Fitztancred governor. It was one of those early possessed by the Flemings, at their first settling in West Wales. It had an outer gate, with two portcullises, and an inner one equally secured; the walls were of prodigious thickness, and were well defended by square and round towers. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, it shared the fate of its neighbours; the present shell which stands on the western bank of the river, over which is a handsome stone bridge of three arches, is converted into a common prison. At the lower end of the town is a pleasing walk, called the Parade, the promenade of the place, winding near the river.

round the side of a hill, where stand the ruins of a priory of black canons, valued according to Speed at £135. 6s. 1d. It was a cruciform building, and one of its arches at the end of the walk, mantled with venerable ivy, is in tolerable preservation. A subterraneous way communicated from this to the castle.*

Inquiring into the price of provisions, we found them nearly as dear as those in England, and of inferior quality. The country indeed was now labouring under dearth and scarcity, and numbers of poor creatures of this and the neighbouring districts literally fell victims to the poverty of their country and the artifice of man. You will acquit me of any breach of charity for this observation, when I relate a few circumstances respecting the *corn trade* that occurred during my stay in this neighbourhood. It is usual, (a sad want of economy indeed), for the small farmers to thresh out their grain, and sell it to the dealers, who regularly attend for the purpose with the desirable object in their hand, ready money, which tempts the necessitous farmers to sell at reduced price, without reserving a supply for their families. There was now literally no corn in the country, but what was, in consequence of this want of common foresight, in the hands of dealers and jobbers, who took care to deal it out in so sparing a way as to keep the country in perpetual dread of perishing by famine. The supply, as the previous harvest had been scanty, was principally foreign corn; and by making numerous distinctions, with-

* In this neighbourhood grow *melittis melissophyllum*, *scirpus sylvaticus*,

out much real difference, the price of a very indifferent article was greatly enhanced above others little inferior in quality. As soon as a vessel laden with corn arrived in the river or the haven, the dealers (and almost every man who had money on this occasion became a dealer) had instantly placarded and chalked up on the walls, and in the most conspicuous parts of the town, that best English wheat and barley were selling at such and such places, much under the price it sold for the preceding weeks and days, and in accommodating quantities. By this simple manœuvre, as the market was then falling, did they induce masters of vessels to unship their cargoes much below the usual market price. Had the poor starving inhabitants been thus enabled to purchase in consequence at a lower rate, this might by some have been considered as charitable dissimulation, and the severer moralist might have been silent on the occasion : but no sooner was the bargain struck, than the worst article was substituted in its place, and the English grain advanced to the very height of the market. I am confident that you, who always entertained doubts about some other points considered upright in trade, will feel indignant, and ask how these men, under a profession of Christianity, can reconcile such transactions to their consciences, or hope to evade the heavy curse denounced against those who wilfully withhold the corn from the poor. But how much more will you be surprized and hurt when I relate to you another fact that occurred at the same place, and nearly at the same time ! The prospect of a plentiful harvest, and fine weather for housing the grain, had occasioned, together with an overdone speculation,

an unusual depression in the markets, and the holders of corn in the eastern part of the kingdom, first alarmed, hastened to empty their warehouses : bearing that Wales had little or no supply, they sought and hoped for a market there. A vessel from Sussex, freighted with barley, came into the Cleddy, and fine samples of it were offered for sale at 9s. per bushel, it then selling here at twelve. The dealers, apprized that the market was falling, offered 7s. The proprietor disgusted, and in the mean while hearing, at Cardigan the people were starving to death, and that there it would bring any money, took up his samples, and weighed anchor the next tide. Learning, however, his destination, they resolved yet to foil him : how long he would be getting round St. David's Head and making the Bay of Cardigan, or arriving in the Teivi, they were able to ascertain ; uniting in their plans, they dispatched agents to Cardigan, with full powers to treat by samples for any quantity of barley at 6s. per Winchester,* and some few reserved contracts were accordingly made on the speculation. Disappointed and chagrined both at his information and treatment, he returned into the Cleddy, discharged his cargo at 7s. per bushel, fearing if he returned further eastward the matter would be worse. Barley long after this was as high in this part of the country as 11s. Such things were transacting at this little port, while the eyes of the kingdom were fixed upon certain individuals, as though they were the only speculators, and the infamous contrivers of keeping up

* The usual expression through Wales for the legal bushel of eight gallons.

the price of provisions. But if such things were done here, what must we suppose was doing in the great marts of the kingdom, where men's ideas of trade must consequently be more enlarged, and whose capital would enable them to carry into effect their speculative plans to almost any desirable extent? I am truly sensible that when the general supply, particularly in such a bulky and perishable an article as grain, becomes greater than the general demand, it is not in the power of all the merchants and jobbers in the kingdom to produce a scarcity in the market, or greatly, for any serious period, to enhance the price: but when the supply is less than the demand, the case is widely different, and there cannot be the smallest doubt entertained that it is then in the power of such men, if avariciously disposed, to produce an artificial scarcity, and enhance the price to a degree both iniquitous and oppressive, by circulating reports, too hastily credited, that the failure of the previous crops are greater than they really are, both at home and abroad, and the expectations of supplies are much less from all favourable quarters; by purchasing large quantities out of the market, and thus producing *local scarcity*, and withholding those large quantities for a time, and obstructing their being produced regularly in a measure to supply the demand. The inland and foreign merchant will seriously tell you that he considers himself a general benefactor to his country, and that if it were not for himself and such men, the country in similar cases would suffer much more than it did: "*Decipimur specie recti.*" So he certainly would, were his views single and his conduct consistent with his professions. But when the importer withholds

an article necessary for the very existence of the people, by this means depriving the poor of bread till he can procure the highest price his avarice could wish, or his calculations advise, I feel indignant at his effrontery, while I pity his iniquity: for however the interested trader may speciously reason upon the advantages of these large magazines to the community, depend upon it that every merchant's granary, where avarice is over the door, is a river stopped; and such withholding of corn a general curse. How these things are reconcileable with a profession of Christianity I know not—Christianity did I say? with common honesty, with the principles of heathenism. And the judgment of an *Heathen moralist* shall decide upon the question. It is given in Cicero *De Offic. L. 3. Tit. "In contractibus communis &c."* and I need only say to you, the example there adduced is a case in point.

I am Yours, &c. J. E.

LETTER XI.

DEAR SIR,

IN my last I slightly adverted to some of the infamous practices and evil consequences too often the concomitants of trade. In this I shall turn your attention with pleasure to a more interesting theme. The country I shall now invite you to go over with me is religious ground, and I am confident you will feel an equal degree of veneration with me in surveying those scenes, where Christianity at an early period took her station, and erected her standard in Britain; and in calling to recollection the holy ex-

amples of such men as *Patric, David, Sulien*, and a long list in the records of pious fame, that here afforded their exertions of christian zeal and charity. The country from Haverford to St. David's Head is as barren and bleak as can be imagined, destitute of cultivation, devoid of inclosures, and scarcely a single tree or bush decorates this wild extremity of Pembroke. The road lies over a loose sandy tract, with a few miserable huts here and there scattered about. Leaving a single tower, all that remains of Roach Castle, winding down to the beach of Newgal, we there crossed a bridge thrown over a river unnoticed in any map we have seen of this part of the country. It rises in a moor in the parish of *St. Edrin*, and passing Tankerstown receives a rill from the east at Roach Mill, and falls into the sea below the bridge into the bay of St. Bride's. This bay is of little advantage to mariners, being so much exposed to the violent western gales, that it is often considered more perilous to be embayed here, than to lie at single anchor on the coast.

On this beach a phenomenon has more than once occurred, which I shall relate, because it corroborates an observation made in a former tour. (Vid. North Wales.) "That the sea has been continually gaining on the western and south western parts of the island;" and it may be accounted for from the nature of the elements, and the diurnal motion of the earth. It was noticed by Gyraldus, "that when Henry II. was in Ireland, the coast was laid bare by violent storms, and land appeared which for ages had been covered by the sea; and that the trunks of trees which had been felled were discovered with the marks of the axe as fresh as though the strokes

286 *Proofs of the Sea gaining upon the Coast.*

had been made yesterday; with very black earth, and stools of trees like ebony; so that it put on the appearance of a decayed grove, rather than the sea-shore. It must have been a wood, by a miraculous metamorphosis perhaps as old as the deluge or at least very anciently, consumed and swallowed up by the violence of the sea continually incroaching upon the land." A similar phenomenon is related by the learned G. Owen, Esq. which appeared A. D. 1590. (Vid. his MSS.) "It happened," says he, "that the sea sands at Newgal, which are covered every tide, were by some extraordinary violence of the waves so washed off, that there appeared stocks of trees doubtless in their native places, for they retained many evident signs of the stroke of the axe at the felling of them. The sands being washed off in winter, these butts remained to be seen all the following summer; but the rest of the year the same were covered again with the sands. By this it appears that the sea in that place hath intruded upon the land. Moreover I have been told by the neighbours of Coed Traeth near Tenby, that the like hath been seen upon those sands. It is in the tradition of the neighbourhood, that a whole district was swallowed up here; and a small hamlet on the sea shore, without the vestige of a tree, still retains the name of *Tre' Coed*, i. e. the half wooded town." A striking and corroborating fact is related by Borlase, in his History of the Scilly Isles: where in the memory of man an island has been thus divided into several smaller ones, and the tides continuing to flow between them.

Near this place a high promontory of limestone

rock called Pebidiog* protrudes itself into the ocean, the Octopitarum of the Roman geographer, Ptolemy, termed by the English St. David's Head.† Separated only by a narrow frith is the Island of Ramsey, called Inys Devanog, (the Linden of the Romans) from a chapel once upon it dedicated to that Saint.‡ This Island is in shape like that of Cyprus,

* On the most westerly point is the *Lusus Naturæ*, celebrated for ages as the wonder of the place, termed *y Maen Sigl*. It is a fragment of the upper part of the cliff, fallen in such a position as to have obtained a state of almost equipollency; for on touching it with your finger you might perceive it shake. A similar rocking stone we noticed in Caernarvonshire, and many have been found in Cornwall and Ireland. Some have conjectured that these were of human contrivance in the druidical ages, for the purpose of impressing the minds of the vulgar with an idea that those priests possessed miraculous power.

This has long ceased to shake, and the cause is attributed to the fanatics during the civil war, who threw it off its balance that it might no longer administer food to superstition. When it is considered that the stone in question is calculated to be of a weight greater than a hundred oxen could draw, we begin to hesitate, and rather conjecture that it was placed in the fanciful position by some convulsion of nature; and by a similar and subsequent convulsion, the wonder might have ceased.

† The distance from hence to Raven Point in Ireland is about nineteen leagues. When Henry II. stood upon these rocks, and beheld the country he wished to conquer, he observed he could easily make a bridge of boats whereon he could walk from hence into that kingdom. Such is the rhodomontade of imagination, flushed by ambition. You will smile at a similar boast of a French *raft*, and recollect the ingenuity of the author of *a Journey to the Moon*. (Bishop Wilkins.) "That the lunar traveller might subsist upon the *smell of hot bread*."

‡ Devanog or Devanus came into Britain with Faganus, sent by Bishop Eleutherius to preach the Gospel to the inhabitants, A. D. 186; Lucius then being king of Britain.

being triangular: it is the property of the bishop of St. David's, abounds with rabbits, and furnishes herbage for black cattle and numerous sheep of a peculiar sort, different from any I had ever before seen. Even more wild and daring than the mountain breed of North Wales, they appear in shape and instinct to resemble the *Mouflon* or sheep in its savage state; it is a bold fleet creature, able to escape the largest animals by its celerity, or oppose the smaller by the strength and spirit it has received from nature. Their wool is coarse, and if they are removed from the island, unless properly secured, they appear so amazed at the sight of man, that they run wild and must be hunted like the deer to be again taken; which proves to us that the sheep has become the tardy, stupid, defenceless creature we now find it, by the domesticating arts of man: and it is highly probable that every race of quadrupeds might easily be corrupted or tamed by the same means, whereby the sheep has thus been debilitated and depressed: For spirit in man or beast can only be properly roused by a sense of danger, and only preserved by a state of independence.

Near to Ramsey are seven smaller Islands, called the Bishop and his Clerks, in allusion to the original institution of St. David's. They are little more than bare rocks, the largest of which is called the Bishop. They forbode imminent danger, when the wind is in shore, to ships coming from the west or south west: for as a Welsh humourist observes, "This Bishop and his clerks preach deadly doctrine to their winter audience, and appear commendable in nothing but their regular residence, in which they set a good example for the imitation of both orders." These

rocks abound with a variety of birds, as gulls, sea-crows, curlews, puffins, divers, dippers, pilwater, auk or razor bill, shearwater or hoary bird, eligug or scout, sheldrake, the gowgla, barnacle, and falcon. Many of these lay their eggs in the holes of the bare rock, and some in the rabbit burrows of Ramsey. They are considered as a delicacy, and are sought after with peril to furnish the tables of luxury; but the peregrine falcon is of too much historic fame to be classed with common birds. It has been justly observed, that every creature is more important in the history of nature in proportion as he is connected with the wants or the pleasures of man: in this view the minutest vegetable, or the most contemptible insect, becomes an object more deserving attention than the most luxuriant tree, or the most beautiful of the feathered creation. In this respect the falcon though diminutive in comparison, rises superior to the eagle, and is a much more interesting object of curiosity. Inclosures and gradual refinement of manners have greatly tended to contract the circle of rural sports, and abate the general ardour for the pleasures of the field. Among many others that have become obsolete is *falconry*, which formed a principal amusement of our ancestors. A nobleman and his hawk in our day would be an awkward conjunction, whereas a few centuries ago a person of rank scarcely ever stirred without this bird on his hand; and this appearance in ancient paintings is a criterion of nobility. Harold when going on his embassy to the Norman court is painted embarking with his hawk in one hand and a dog under his arm, and in a painting of the nuptials of Henry VI. a

noble attendant is represented in the same manner : for in those times it was thought sufficient for a person of high birth, *to carry his hawk fair*, and leave the accomplishment of *letters* to those of inferior rank. (Vid. Claxton.) Training of this sagacious bird Spencer makes his gallant Sir Tristram boast :

“ Ne is there hawke which mantleth her on perch,
“ Whether high tow’ring or accoasting low ;
“ But I the measure of her flight doe search,
“ And all her pray and all her diet knowe.”

The peregrine, and falcon gentil were then considered presents worthy of kings, and used as general *douceurs* when fines were to be remitted or privileges obtained. Thus Jeoffry Fitzpierre gave two good Norway hawks to obtain the liberty of exporting one cwt. of cheese ; and Nicholas the Dane was to give the king a hawk for liberty every time he landed to traffic through England. Sir John Stanley had a grant of the Isle of Man from Henry IV. to be held of the king his heirs and successors, by homage and service of two falcons on the day of his or her coronation. We cannot be surprised therefore, when these birds were held in such high estimation, if falconry soon became an expensive sport,* and principally confined to wealth and power. Among the Welsh the king’s falconer ranked as the fourth officer of the court ; but although thus honoured, he was prohibited more than three drafts of cwrw from his horn, lest he should be incapacitated for

* Even so late as the time of James I. we are informed that Sir Thomas Monson gave a thousand pounds sterling for a cast of hawks.

the charge of his hawks. The mode of training and other interesting particulars you will see in Willoughby's Ornithology.*

The country though bleak is not unoccupied; but if any thing could add to the natural dreariness, and the sombre effects it produces on the mind, it is the unusual violence with which the waves beat against these terrific cliffs, and the hoarse screaming and crying of those feathered visitants, who in their haunts are ever known to shun the presence and the footsteps of man. I imagined that this might formerly, under the hands of industry, have been a less dreary and barren spot than it appeared now; but referring to Gyraldus, we found it was very similar many centuries ago. "Hic etenim (says he) angulus est supra Hybernicum mare remotissimus; terra saxosa, sterilis, et infœcunda; nec sylvis vestita, nec fluminibus distincta, nec pratis ornata, ventis solum et procellis semper exposita. Ex industriâ namque viri sancti, talia sibi delegerunt habitacula ut populares strepitus subterfugiendo, vitamque eremiticam longe pastorali anteferendo parti liberius quæ non feretur indulgerunt." p. 161. To such a forbidding situation did the exemplary Archbishop of Caerleon remove with the clergy attached to his cause, from the Pelagian persecution, and for the furtherance of the gospel, removing the archiepiscopal chair to a place called Menevia, now St. David's. That christianity flourished in this part at an early period, is evident from the remains of places dedicated to several holy men;

* Falconers had a patroness of their art whom they addressed in their songs, as hunters do Diana: which was *Tibba*, who lived at Darmondcaſter, and died A. D. 660. (Vid. Index Expugnatorius.)

we have traced one to the memory of Devanog, who lived in the second century : and on a small point forming an island at high water, are the ruins of a chapel called *St. Justinian's*, who, retiring here out of *Bretagne*, lived a hermit, and was slain about the end of the sixth century.

It became a place of great consequence soon after the arrival of *St. David*. The church being made conventual, as was the custom at that period for all where bishops took up their residence, for it does not appear that the clergy then had any distinct cures, the division of parishes not having been made, but resided with their diocesan in collegiate bodies; on the emoluments attached to the episcopal church; here they were habituated to study and prayer, when not preaching in distant places according to the appointment of their respective bishops : so that they were rather itinerant than parochial clergy.

For centuries *St. David's* had its Archbishops, men notable for their zeal, and of the most exemplary manners ; and in the time of *Samson*, the 26th, who fled into *Bretagne* on account of the plague raging here, it had the acknowledgement of seven suffragans, *Exeter*, *Bath*, *Hereford*, *Llandaff*, *St. Asaph*, and *Fernes* in *Ireland*. By the repeated conquests of the Anglo-Normans the different sees were gradually alienated, and the archbishopric was reduced to a single diocese, and the bishop, by the policy of the English court, became a suffragan to the see of *Canterbury*. This happened in the reign of *Henry I.* The thirty-third bishop, *Morgan*, having presumed to eat flesh contrary to the austere rules of the ancient church, was murdered by pirates ; and this event was viewed by the eye of su-

perstitution as a judgment of heaven for the punishment of his crime. Of the vacancy the Archbishop of Canterbury took immediate advantage, appointing one of the King's chaplains, Bernard, a Norman, to the see, contrary to ancient usage, and against the consent of the Welsh clergy, who till now had been permitted to hold a *congé d'elire* for the election of their own bishops. The revenues were then valued in the exchequer at 426*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* and in the Pope's books at 1500 ducats. (Vid. Godwyn de Præsul.)

From this time religion in Wales assumed a different aspect. The sincere principles of the gospel became blended with the corrupt maxims of human policy; the court and church were too intimately allied; the pastors began rapidly to lose that simplicity of manners which adorns and dignifies truth; ambition strongly possessed the minds of those who, as they were exalted higher than others, ought to have shewn the stronger examples of condescension and humility. The artful prelates of Rome, in conjunction with the crown of England, taking advantage of this increasing weakness in the superiors of the church, brought over most of the clergy to their wishes; and Christianity in Wales, through these ages of darkness, was too often made a stalking horse to serve the most secular ends and the most abandoned interests. There continued, however, to exist much truth and devotion, though veiled under human wisdom and accompanied by human folly. A pointed attention was paid to the magnificence of sacred buildings, and to the rites of external worship: attention which proved that they were not totally indifferent to religion; that how-

ever they might misconceive her true nature, they were desirous of her blessings; and that though they in some instances might lose the substance, they were still eager to grasp at the shadow.

The cathedral was erected, according to Gyraldus, by Peter As, then diocesan in the time of Henry II. ; but according to Willis, in the time of King John, A. D. 1110, and completed by several successors. The nave, however, appears only to have been of this age, the large semicircular arches of which are well proportioned to the massy columns, whose terminations are ornamented with curious wreaths of foliage. The fine pointed arches of the doors and windows of the western front are in the majestic style peculiar to Gothic architecture; the other parts of the building are evidently, from the various styles, the work of different ages. Though it has suffered much by time, it is still a noble structure, consisting of two transepts, measuring from east to west 300 feet, and the breadth of nave and aisles 76. Its tower is finely carved and ornamented with varied fret work, and the Gothic arches of the choir form a striking contrast to the Saxon arches of the nave.* Bishop Vaughan's chapel was annexed so late as the time of Henry VIII. which exhibits a beautiful stone roof, still in perfect repair. The other parts of the roofing are of Irish oak, which

* The roof of my Lady's chapel, transepts, and choir, have been down ever since the civil wars. The western front has been lately repaired, and the nave is neatly fitted up for the performance of divine service. While much praise is due for the attention hitherto paid, it must be lamented that something is not done to preserve the monuments of antiquity contained within its walls.

is said, from the innocency of the country where it grew, to be an antidote against any venomous reptile or insect; and this roof, coeval with the church, still free from cobwebs, is produced as an evidence of the fact.

St. Mary's chapel must have been, from the remains, still more ornamental than Bishop Vaughan's; the ruins, among other curious sculpture, including seven heads of the seven virgin sisters who contributed the sum expended in the building. The chapter house has a handsome ceiling. A variety of ancient and noble monuments, with the remains of shrines and chapels, call our recollection to ancient times, and strongly remind the observer of his own mortality. In the north wall of the choir is the shrine of St. David, an altar tomb, having a canopy formed of four pointed arches, and with four quatrefoils in front: into these the votaries, who formerly came from all parts on pilgrimage, put their offerings to the saint, which were regularly taken out through two iron doors for the purpose behind. According to Tanner (*Bib. Brit.*) Gyraldus Cambrensis was buried here, but there is shewn no monument. In the choir are the monuments of Owen Tewdwr, second husband of Queen Catherine, Rhys ap Tewdwr; with those of Jerwerth and Anselm, Bishops in the thirteenth century, and Edmund, Earl of Richmond, father to Henry VII. It was this tomb, and the proud memorials of his other Tewdwr ancestors, which induced King Henry VIII. to change the intention he had formed of removing the see to Caermarthen, as a more central and eligible part of the diocese.

The small river Alan* divides the cathedral from the close and palace. Over this was formerly a large limestone slab, ten feet long, called *Lech lavar*, or the speaking stone: attempting to speak once as a corpse was being carried over, it split in two parts, in consequence of which no more corpses were carried over that way. Merlin in one of his prophecies had foretold, "That a King of England, returning from the conquest of Ireland, wounded by a man having a *red hand*, should expire on this stone." When Henry II. on his return from Ireland, was passing over it on pilgrimage to the shrine of St. David, a woman exclaimed aloud, Deliver us, O Lech laver! deliver the world and the nation from this tyrant. The King stopping short enquired into the meaning of the exclamation, then looking earnestly at the stone, passed boldly over it, upbraiding the prophet with design and falsehood. He was, however, soon informed that *he* was not the King alluded to by the prophet, nor was it *he* that should conquer Ireland; (vid. Holinsbed.)

The palace now stands a monument of desolation. Two sides of the large quadrangle are nearly intire, which are finished with a light open Gothic parapet, similar to that of Lantphey Court. Several of the apartments are of great magnitude, and the walls of some still standing: the bishop's hall is 58 feet by 28, and the King's hall 88 feet by 30. The entrance into this grand saloon is by a singularly fine arch, with the statues of King John and his Queen placed over it; at the end is a circular window representing

* On the banks grow *cyperus longus*,

a wheel, with felly and spokes curiously wrought in stone. It is said to have been expressly built for the reception of King John on his return from Ireland, and the above-named statues confirm the assertion.

In this same little bottom, called the Vale of Rhos, are fair houses for the chancellor, treasurer, chanter, and four archdeacons, chosen out of the canons, of which there are twenty-one; these are inclosed with a strong stately wall. One canon is resident at a time, and the choral service, which is performed twice a day, is conducted with much decorum. A little above the cathedral stands the city, consisting of one street of small houses and cottages: so poor and miserable is it in appearance, as to induce a stranger to inquire while in it for the city of St. David's. Though doubtless it has been a more considerable place, yet its present appearance perhaps is rather emblematical of its original penury, than a striking contrast to its former grandeur. When an ingenious gentleman, speaking of the ravages this place and church have experienced, observes, "That the reputation of the great riches of St. David's frequently tempted Saxons, Danes, and pirates, to hazard their ships and their lives on this dangerous and horrid coast: the terrors of shipwreck formed a slight barrier to silver shrines and golden treasures;" he seems to have taken up history at the wrong end: for the frequent sacking and pillaging it underwent was in those periods of its history principally when self-denial was considered a most essential doctrine of Christianity, and voluntary poverty a point of distinction in the escutcheon of a Christian. After the Saxons had established themselves in England; and ceased to annoy the Britons, the Danes became

a perpetual scourge. This church was laid in ruins, and the country wasted by Harold, 981, prior to the battle of Llanwannog. This and other religious places were laid waste again, 987, under the cruel and Pagan leader, Godfryd, the son of Harold. Indeed the country was so harassed at this period, that Meredith was constrained to compound with these marauders by a tribute of a penny a head on all his subjects, called *Ghw Maen*, or the tax of the *black army*. A. D. 1071 it was ransacked by the Normans; and 1077 again by strangers. Thus did it suffer principally from the hands of the enemies of Christianity; and the inducements to such outrages will perhaps be better found in that enmity discoverable in the world against truth, and always most conspicuously displayed against its ministers, than the peculiar avarice of the one party, or the superfluous treasures of the other; for these events chiefly happened previous to its rich endowments under the Norman line of Princes; and subsequent to that period the church of St. David suffered less than many others that stood on the theatre of the contending parties. But this author, probably from prejudice of education, seems to have formed a number of complex notions, which he is unable to reduce to simple and distinct ideas: so that it was impossible for him to think of the church and church-men, without connecting with them "*silver shrines and golden treasures*." He however candidly admits that its present condition (*i. e.* the place) is an effectual barrier to the "*Auri sacra fumes*," and that the inhabitants may hence, without the remotest idea of molestation, sleep secure in their cabins;" and he might have added, that its bishops can no longer be

a target for the shafts of envy; and that whoever takes the charge of this diocese, uninfluenced by ambition or a desire of change, sacrifices more to the service of the church than comes within the power of many, and that meets the views and wishes but of few.

“*Quis talia fando, &c.*”

But I will conduct you again to the coast, which abounds with a great variety of genera of the cryptogamous division algæ: among others, the *ulva lactuca* and the *ulva umbilicalis* claim particular attention,* as the inhabitants of this country, not inattentive to the blessings of Providence, collect these plants which abundantly attach themselves to the rocks and stones, and by a certain process they form a substance which serves for food as well as medicine. Having gathered the plants, they wash them clean from sand and slime, leaving them to drain between two tiles or stones; they are then shred small, kneaded like dough, and then made up into balls or rolls, which are called *Llaiwan*, or dark butter. It is considered both a wholesome and pleasant food; as a medicine, a fine aperient and antiscorbutic, indeed, by many, a perfect *panacea*.

* The former consists of a thin green pellucid membrane, or leaf, from two inches to a foot or more in length, and from one to five inches in breadth, undulated or laciniated on the margin like a coss-lettuce leaf, growing sometimes single, but generally in clusters reclining over each other. The latter is a wide membranaceous leaf, of a dark dull purple colour, of a circular shape, flatly expanded, but sometimes oblong variously sinuated, on the margin smooth and shining, and affixed to the rock or stone by a central root. Both are used, but where both are found together the latter is preferred.

It is sometimes pickled with salt, packed in jars, and sent to London, where it is brought to table as a delicacy, stewed, and eaten with lemon juice and oil. The inhabitants of the Hebrides, we are informed, gather the same plants, and after pounding and stewing them with a little water, eat them with pepper, vinegar, and butter, or with the addition of leeks and onions : with them they are considered to possess great medical virtue ; they ascribe to them an anodyne power, and bind the leaves about their temples to assuage violent head-achs attendant on fevers, and to procure sleep.

We proceeded along the coast to the northward, the country still wearing the same bleak and dreary aspect. The inclosures are very few, and those few can not justly be called *fenced* ; yet the land is neither waste nor in commonalty, every proprietor having his own land, and possessing an exclusive right to his own feed. Formerly the lands of this district were divided into very narrow slangs, which were uninclosed, and from harvest time till Lady Day grazed in common ; this in old writings was called *Redwal Time*, a word derived from the Welsh rhyddfal, signifying *to wander*, out of which the lawyers coined a low Latin term to suit the purpose of conveyancing, and was sufficiently descriptive of the kind of tenure to which it was applied. When lands were granted to be held in *rudivallo*, they were considered as unconfined, to be enjoyed in common with others invested with an equal privilege, and were depastured by cattle without a herdsman, i. e. in a *wandering state* : but the custom has long ceased, and the lands for the most part, though uninclosed, are in severalty. In the interior, where

the farms are large, the sheep are tended by a shepherd, and a herdsman attends the cattle; but here the respective properties are small, and the depasturing is generally done by what is termed *tethering*, which is making a rope of hay or sea-reed grass, affixing one end to the animal's leg, and at the other a peg, which is driven into the ground, and thus confining him to a certain and determinate extent. Not only are horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, but even poultry, as geese, &c. subject to this restraining tether, this appearing the only mode they can adopt to avoid continual trespass. The coast is for the greater part hilly, the sea being girt by high perpendicular cliffs, and the ascents and descents of the road are frequently abrupt and sudden. Through the bottoms, whence at times you get a view of the the Irish hills, wind various streams to the ocean, which give some relief from the repetition of bare rocks and barren sands. In one of the most considerable of these, called Dyffryn Gwayn, through which the river Gwayn flows, stands the small town of Fishguard, in Welsh, Aber Gwayne. This river rising in Percelly, precipitates itself by several small but picturesque falls into this pleasing vale, and running over a pebbly bed, passes under a long narrow stone bridge, which joins the town with Pebidlog to the sea a little below. The port is small, but if assisted by a pier would be of admirable advantage to the Irish trade, as its situation to the north of Milford is calculated to render it a safe haven for ships unable, in blowing weather, to get round St. David's Head; and it is the only port on this part of the coast un-incommoded with shifting sands, called a *bar*: this subject is worthy the consideration of the board of

trade. The trade is small, employing about fifty vessels, from twenty to one hundred tons burthen, in the exportation of oats and butter, and the importation of culm and limestone, the latter being the principal manure, and the former the only fuel besides peat. The culm is brought from Milford, and the economical custom we have before noticed of mixing it with clay and slime obtains here. Of the excellence of this fire the inhabitants are perfectly satisfied; of its brilliancy little can be said, but of its durability every thing, for when once made up and left undisturbed, it will endure a whole day. The scarcity of wood making persons cautious how they suffer it to go out, at night they plaister over the remaining coals with what they call a *stunning* of the same, which being stirred up in the morning answers the required purpose.

A small manufactory of coarse cloths, for home consumption, is carried on; but the principal employ of the inhabitants is in the *herring fishery*, which has lately been on the decline, owing perhaps to various causes. The people say, to condemn the covetousness of the clergy, God has of late withdrawn the fish from this part of the coast. That the shoals are not so large or so frequent as formerly, appears to be a fact, but much of the grievance perhaps may be found in a relaxation of industry. These fish, unknown to the ancients, and which furnish such a supply of delicious food to thousands, abound on our coasts more than any other. Bred in the Polar seas, they seldom pass any great distance to the southward. The grand winter rendezvous is the Arctic sea, where they continue for months to recruit their strength after the time of spawning,

that sea, according to voyagers, swarming with insect food more than seas in warmer latitudes. Rondeletius observes, these fish are gregarious, and the numbers so great as not to be taken till Autumn, when they divide and form shoals, changing place and wandering over the ocean. The herrings begin to put themselves in motion in the spring, a few forerunners preceding the grand shoal, which is known by the appearance of numerous birds which prey upon them as they proceed. Such is the effect of a shoal, that they change the colour of the ocean; divided into distinct columns of five or six miles in length, and three or four in breadth, driving the waves before them with a rippling noise: at times they sink for some minutes, then suddenly rise to the surface; and nothing, it is said by those who have seen them approach off the Shetland Isles, can possibly exceed the splendour of the sight, for in clear weather they tinge the waves with every variety of hue, like the colours of the most brilliant gems, and their eyes sparkle like electric fire. Here they separate; one wing of the main body directing its course to the eastern, and the other to the western shores of Great Britain: the former supplying the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk, where they are called Norfolk capons; and the latter meeting a check on the north of Ireland, visits the coasts of America, and frequently glut the Bay of Chesapeak so much as to become a nuisance to the shore; the remainder, proceeding down St. George's Channel, supply both the Irish and Welsh coast. The fishing here commences about August, and ends about Christmas; but the first or middle fishing is esteemed the best, as the herring then is in full roe, and in the begin-

ning of winter they deposit their spawn. The mode of taking them is in busses, or half-decked boats, with drovers and shooting nets, in places well known as the firmest ground. The nets are shot in the evening, the later the better, and are taken up generally with store of fish the next morning, from ten to forty mases in a boat, each mase containing thirty-one score or 520 herrings. A mase has been sold as low as half a crown: quantities of them are immediately packed in panniers, and carried on horses backs to market in a fresh state to Hereford, Shrewsbury, and even as far as Worcester, the centre of the kingdom. But the larger portion are salted, packed in casks, or dried in smoke for future use: the former are called *white*, and the latter *red* herrings. The smoking is effected in small houses erected for the purpose, in which the fish strung by the mouth, are suspended in rows and a smoking fire applied under them, till they have acquired sufficient firmness, known to the workmen by the colour. The smoke of *fern* is principally made use of here, and this fuel for the purpose is esteemed preferable to any other; the herrings so cured obtaining a preference in the market for the delicacy of their flavour. The Dutch paid attention to this fishery so early as the year 1164, and long carried on a sole and lucrative trade; and when our attention was turned to it you must recollect what a bone of contention it became between the two countries, a right of fishery being made the pretext of war. As they first taught us to take the advantage of these fish, so they also instructed us in the art of procuring them. A Dutchman by the name of *Benkelin*, of

Biervelt near Sluys, discovered this useful expedient for their preservation.

A salmon fishery is conducted here, which with industry and encouragement might soon be greatly improved. Indeed, this is considered by the people of Liverpool as the best ground for turbot, soles, John Dorys, &c. from Scotland to the Land's End. But an ill founded prejudice has obtained credit, that any other fishery would injure the herring fry; not considering that the herring goes northward to spawn, and those that are seen after the usual time are invalids or stragglers left behind.

The town is small, consisting principally of cottages, the roofs as well as walls whitewashed; which cleanliness is contrasted by the rugged dirty streets, with a dung-heap at almost every door; and a small house without a wine or spirit licence is dignified with the name of *the Inn*. Under the auspices of the truly patriotic Mr. Knox, there has been lately established a post-office and a market: two things that add much to the comfort and convenience of every individual. The church having neither tower nor spire, has little apparent dignity: the living is a poor vicarage, it having formerly been parcel of the abbey of St. Dogmuel's, and even the *tythe of her-rings goes to the lay impropriator*. A spot in the church-yard, a few yards from the north-east wall, is remarkable for a very distinct echo, which returns every sound with equal force. If a drum be beaten here, it sounds in the ear like two rival drummers.

The adjoining cliffs consist of a species of mixed marble called *pudding stone*, and a vein of *Portland stone* has lately been discovered in the vicinity, of

on marl, stated that its use in Kemes was first discovered by one Cole, a Frenchman, who came into this country with Martin de la Tours, the conqueror of Kemes; and who bestowed on the said Cole the land called *Llwyngwair*, now the seat of Mr. Bowen, where he first discovered this fertilizing substance, and applied it to use. This estate continued in the family of the Coles for several generations, who doubtless followed up the profitable custom, as many ancient marl pits may be seen upon it, and marl is still found in these lands.

At a little distance on the river Neferu, is the small fishing town of Newport, anciently called Trefdraeth, or the town on the beach. The harbour is both small and dangerous even for light vessels, owing to a bar of sand about a mile out, passable only at high water. It formerly had a castle built by Martin de la Tours, who also made it a corporate town. The castle was destroyed by Llewelyn, A. D. 1216, when he overran the whole country as far as Haverfordwest; but at the intercession of the then Bishop of St. David's, he made peace and restored the places he had taken, on condition that the whole county of Pembroke should swear allegiance to him as their lawful sovereign. Though small, it was then considered a fortress of some consequence, as A. D. 1258, Llewelyn thought it necessary to take and secure this before he proceeded on his march to the southward, when he effected a reconciliation between the South Wallian princes Rhys Grigg and Rhys Fychan.

The old cross mentioned by Gibson remains in the church-yard, and is a curious specimen of those carved stones with knots and endless involutions we

mentioned in Glamorganshire, which device probably alluded to *the doctrine of eternal life*. The triquetrous-shaped stone inscribed to the memory of a Roman soldier we did not see, it has probably by some selfish virtuoso been removed. In the vicinity is the circle of stones mentioned by the same author, consisting of several stones pitched on end in a circular form. In the midst of the circle, which measures fifty feet diameter, is a vast rude flat stone supported by eight pillars; it however at present rests but on three, the rest having shrunk from the incumbent weight. The length is 18 feet, the breadth 9; and a fragment lies near 10 feet long and 5 broad: the thickness at the upper end is about three feet, and near two at the lower: and like the wonder excited at Stonehenge in Wiltshire, the stone is of a different kind to any at present discovered near. Another monument of similar antiquity is what is called by Camden Llech y Drybedd,* tripodium or the altar stone. It is one large stone of an oval shape, and convex like an egg, flatted on one side about twelve yards in circumference, lying on four other rude stones as supporters, one of which has sunk from the ground giving way. It has a small caniculus cut at the end, to carry off any libations offered upon it, which was an usual ceremony in Druidical worship.

Immediately behind the beautiful little river Neferu, rises the north western extremity of the chain of mountains called *Percelly*. This high table land runs in a direction from north-east to south-west, commencing near Capel Bettws in Caernarthen-shire, and terminates at Dynas on the sea coast.

* The people call it Llech y Drythyll, which let them interpret.

The ridge is broken into several distinct mountains, bearing appropriate names: as Brenny Vawr, Manoclogdu, &c. and in the front, like a determined leader, Percelly properly so called. This is about eight miles long, and two to three broad; the highest peak of which called Cwm Cerwyn serves as a landmark at sea; and is the first land seamen make coming from the south or south-west, sailing many hours before they make any other, and is then a sure guide for the harbour of Milford. Its height is not great when compared with the mountains of North Wales: it is, however, sufficiently high to be frequently enveloped with clouds while it is clear beneath, and serves as a barometer for the distant parts of the country. According to the old proverb, "When Percelly weareth a hat, all Pembroke-shire shall weate of that;" if clouds gather thick about the summit, rain generally quickly follows. The prospect, as you may suppose, is extensively grand: Pembroke-shire, parts of Cardigan, Glamorgan, Brecknock, Montgomery, Merioneth, Caermarthen to the east; the channel and the coast of Somerset to the west; St. George's channel and the mountains of Wicklow. A road passes over this ridge called the *Flemish way*, from a tradition that the Flemings fearing to descend into the vales, travelled this way to their new settlements. It is however evidently the remains of a Roman road, both from the form and direction, and was doubtless the one which led from Maridunum to Menapia.

Heaps of huge stones lie about the summits and sides of this ridge, like those of the Snowden chain, and evident marks of retiring waters are visible down the cwms of the mountains. Percelly abounds with

peat bogs, which furnish employment to numbers of poor people in digging and curing it for sale. This mountain was granted by one of the Lords of Kemes for this purpose: it abounds with springs, which support a variety of aquatic plants, and such as are peculiar to peat bogs and marshy places. At times it exhibits considerable verdure, and the different cwms furnish abundance of grass. Numerous flocks are here constantly attended by shepherds, who are not paid in money as in England, but are allowed to keep so many sheep of their own to run with the flock they tend, by the increase of which they receive an adequate recompence for their labour. They reside in the adjacent vales in self-erected huts, built of loose stones, and covered with rushes; which also serve them as beds for their nightly repose: doors they have none, but when the keen blast and howling storm approach, a rush-clad hurdle set on end affords the wished for shelter. The sheep of this mountainous district are subject to a kind of vertigo, similar to goggles of the west, here termed *pendro*. Their wool is of a coarse hempy nature, calculated for strong cloth, and a manufactory of such might be of great advantage to the inhabitants. You will be surprised to find that the greater part of the fleecy produce is sent out of the county and sold in a raw state: out of that *very county where the Flemings formerly settled, where lived the very people that introduced the woollen manufacture into the country, and to whom we owe this staple trade of the kingdom!* and that not a vestige of their genius or industry this way is left, save weaving a few coarse cloths for the use of the peasantry. Thus trade and commerce, like earthly friends, capriciously take their flight from

those by whom they have been most assiduously wooed, and profusely lavish their blessings on those who perhaps have never solicited their assistance.

This county stands unrivalled as a breeding county, and the oxen and black cattle of Pembroke are both in compactness and beauty, in depth of carcase and shortness of leg, very superior to the boasted breed of the vale of Glamorgan. They are grazed together in large bodies, and thousands of herds were now scattered over the distant plains. They are tended by men and boys, who move as the cattle move, to keep them within the assigned limits; they are never housed, but thus grazed and foddered all the winter. The mode of supplying the want of green crops and fodder in spring, is by a reserve of the summer crops left on the ground without mowing till this season, which then wears the appearance of hay. This is termed *fogging the land*. How far this practice is rational I have not had sufficient experience to decide. It is alleged by the English farmer, that leaving an old crop on the ground is prejudicial to the ensuing one. The Welsh farmer is decidedly of opinion, on the contrary, that it keeps the young springing grass warm, and the following crop is by this mean generally doubled.

It is obvious, however, that much of the crop dies and becomes inert, and the best cannot contain so much nourishment as well ended hay. By the sudden drying of hay in the process of hay making, many of the juices are preserved, and by the fermentation they undergo in the rick, called *sweating*, they are perhaps ameliorated as a pabulum of life.

I cannot quit this district without calling your attention to a very remarkable fact: *Inoculation for*

the small pox has been practised here time immemorial: and this they do without preparation or assistance. In order to procure the disorder, they either rub the matter taken from mature pustules on several parts of the skin, or puncture the skin with a needle, previously dipped in the infectious matter. They call it buying the small pox, as it is a custom to purchase the matter of those affected, as children do warts of each other. It is probably a remnant of those useful arts taught the Britons by the Romans, and afterwards with many others buried under the rubbish of ignorance and superstition: for the custom originally came from Greece, and we know the Romans were not slow to adopt any thing that appeared like improvement, from the manners or customs of that country. You recollect its slow introduction into this country; for when the account was communicated to the Royal Society by Pignorini, of the practice in Turkey, it was for some time only performed on condemned criminals. The Georgians and Circassians had been, for ages prior to that period, in the habit of performing this kind office for their female children, for the preservation of that beauty on which their future fortune might depend. It was early practised in America, and it was there observed, that in this disease and the *jaws*, the flies often inoculated thousands, by gorging themselves with the matter from the ripe pustules of the diseased, and flying upon others in a sound state, introducing, by means of their proboscis, the matter within the skin, as bees are known to carry the fecundating pollen from flower to flower. Thus, it seems, like many other useful inventions, we are not indebted for inoculation to the superior wisdom or ingenuity

of man, but to the insinect of the inferior parts of creation.

I am ever Yours, J. E.

LETTER XII.

DEAR SIR,

TO the botanist fond of umbrageous woods, at forming a shelter favourable to the growth of more humble plants; and the enthusiastic admirer of nature in her vegetable decorations, it could not but be matter of regret to see the greater part of the country which we had just left, stripped of its most lovely ornaments, its coppices and woods. While lamenting this general denudation, we were desirous, if possible, to ascertain the cause; and in the enthusiasm of the moment, were almost ready to join with Evelyn and believe, "*That it had been owing to some dreadful sylvisfragi occasioned by invisible spirits, as there is nothing they cannot subvert and demolish when God permits them to do mischief, and convince those who believe there are none, because they do not see though they feel their effects.*" Sylva, p. 569. But returning quickly to a more sober state of mind, we endeavoured to account for the disaster from causes more upon a level with our understandings, and more consonant to the general tenor of events.

The formidable obstructions which the woods presented to Normans, Flemings, and Anglo Normans, in their endeavours to obtain possession of this country, may be assigned as a reason for the destruction of many at that early period, as they afforded continual means

to annoy them, and the best fortifications for a flying and skirmishing army ; imitating the policy of Alexander as related by Quintus Curtius, Lib. XI. who was unable to make any impression upon the *Gens Mardarum* till he had been able to fell the forests of Hyrcania.

Another cause has been the erroneous opinion long entertained for want of a better knowledge of chemistry, that woodlands, especially near habitations, were highly injurious to health, from the damps they occasioned, and the effluvia they emitted ; and another, equally unfounded, that they are of no comparative value with arable and pasture.

A third cause has been the discovery of numerous collieries and iron mines, which produce such an immense demand for black poles and charcoal. These may be viewed as the great devourers of woods, holding out such a temptation to felling as becomes irresistible, when conjoined with the necessity of proprietors. And this necessity is too often brought on by extravagance, gambling, and debauchery. How much it is to be lamented, that the moral state of the owners may but too often be known by the number of *sticks* marked for the axe on his estate, and that an evening at *White's* too often robs the future heir of his undoubted patrimony. It may be said that every man has a right to do what he will with his own ; but this is a principle in few instances just, or consistent with the general laws of society, every statute of which is intended as a restraint. The exercise of this right of nature would often clash with the rights of others, and in few cases perhaps would it be more injurious, than in the one before us. You will recollect that Cicero in his second philippic, amidst other

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reproaches of his antagonist, dwells most upon *his waste of certain wood lands*, to the great detriment of the state and posterity. Speaking of his debaucheries, he says, in his inimitable manner, "*Tua ista detrimenta* ; speaking of his felling the timber, *illa nostra!*" The only remedy to be applied to this increasing evil is a general spirit of planting ; but this will never be excited, till either you can persuade mankind that they are *non sibi nati*, but *patres patriæ* ; that they have not only social duties to perform, but also duties which relate to posterity ; or that the planting of trees is a profitable concern, and perhaps the best mode they can adopt to provide for the younger part of their families. For this purpose, I would strongly recommend that incomparable work, Evelyn on Forest Trees, to the serious perusal of the nobility and gentry of this kingdom, especially those of North and South Wales.

The lordship of Kemes, however, forms a fine contrast with the commot of Dewi : both the upper and under strata, and the whole face of the country, are truly different. The limestone is changed into slate, the soil consists of loam and clay, and instead of a flat and barren wild, the eye is relieved by varied hills and fruitful vallies, abounding with woods and streams. But neither the buildings nor inhabitants seem to correspond with the charming aspect of the country. The village of *Velindre* next presented itself, with its mud-built cottages covered with a scanty thatch of oaten straw.

A few miles out of the road to the left are the ruins of *St. Dogmael's Abbey*. It is in the extreme part of Kemes, on the southern bank of the Teivi, called by Leland "*A priory of Bonhommes* ;" it was

a house of Benedictines, of a reformed part of that order, called the order of Tiron, and was founded by Martin de la Tours, in the time of Henry I. ; afterwards further endowed by William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, in the time of Henry III. Its value at the Dissolution was 68*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

Passing a noble stone bridge of seven arches, we entered the county town of Cardigan, in Welsh *Aberteivi*. The streets being on a declivity are clean, the houses neat, and the new town hall, finished 1797 for the assizes and other public business, is a handsome building. It is pleasantly situated on the northern bank of the river, about two miles from its mouth; yet from its various windings, and the hills to the west, the town appears landlocked. The tide admits brigs, as large as 150 tons, to come up to the quay; and previous to the war it had a considerable export trade in lead and corn to Ireland, but it has little now to boast of, except what the iron works in the vicinity afford, and is fast going to decay. At the end of the bridge stands the shell of its castle, built, as it is said, by Gilbert de Clare, who also fortified the town in the time of Henry II. ; but we find that Rhys Gryffydd, when he marched towards North Wales to meet the invading army of Owen Gwynedd, built a castle for the defence of his borders at Aberteifi, A. D. 1155. (Vid. Powel.) It must afterwards have fallen into the hands of the enemy; for A. D. 1164, it was besieged by Rhys, taken and razed to the ground. It was sometimes the royal residence, for we are informed that, A. D. 1176, Rhys celebrated a feast at Christmas in his *Castle of Aberteifi*, which he caused to be proclaimed through

all Britain, Ireland, and the adjacent isles. Numbers of English, Irish, and Normans accepted the invitation, and coming to Aberteiv were honourably received and courteously entertained. Among other entertainments for their amusement, Rhys proclaimed an eisteddfod: assembling all the bards and minstrels, and seats being provided for them in the great hall, the bards were commanded to answer each other extempore in rhyme, according to the established laws of British poetry. Those who overcame in this poetical contest were rewarded with rich and appropriate presents. In this rencontre the North Wales bards obtained the victory, and received the approbation and thanks of the assembly: in music, however, the South Wales minstrels gained most applause, and among the most expert and accomplished the servants of the Prince were accounted chief.

On the side of the river stands the church, a large handsome structure; and contiguous, the ruins of a priory of black canons, a cell to Chertsey in Surrey, valued at 13*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* On the other side a chapel was erected on the spot where Archbishop Baldwin stood, when he preached in support of the crusade, accompanied by Gyraldus.

We now ascended the river, the bed of which grows narrower, and the banks soon assume the shape of cliffs, two or three hundred feet high, covered with forest trees and brush wood from their summit to the margin of the river. Amid these, on a bare projecting rock, stand the ruined towers of Cilgerran Castle, than which, viewed from the water either above or below, there cannot be a more interesting prospect. The high perpendicular cliffs,

with huge trees growing out of their fissures; the dense wood beneath; the bold rock standing as an advanced guard; the ivy-mantled ruins on its summit; and the crystal waters of the Teifi reflecting, as in a mirror, the impending shades, and rolling over large fragments of rock beneath, through a narrow chasm, form a group of objects that please while they astonish the beholder.

You must by this time be almost satiated with the recital of castles built, besieged, and razed: but it would be unpardonable not to take some notice of this fortress, which, from the importance of its central situation, and the strength of its position, was an object of envy to the contending parties. Roger de Montgomery laid the foundation of a castle here; but on the grant of this country (the property of Cadwyan ap Blethyn) by Henry I. to Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Strygil, he erected this and the castle of Aberystwith, to secure the possessions he had so unjustifiably obtained. This apparently impregnable strong hold was taken by Rhys, Prince of South Wales; and twice in vain assailed by the Anglo-Normans, who found the Welsh as obstinate in defence as desperate in attack. It must, however, subsequent to this period, have been taken and razed, as it is observed by Powel that, A. D. 1222, William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, laid the foundation of a castle here, and left his soldiers, while he visited England, to complete the work. This was the building, the ruins of which we were now surveying: two circular towers and a few of the walls are the whole of the remains, and the mutilated fragments only serve to form an interesting feature in the delightful landscape.

The town has one irregular street of miserable cottages ; but as it happened to be the fair day, and this being the *first cattle fair through Wales*, we were induced to halt. It was a sight we could not obtain in England, and thinking that we might never have an opportunity of beholding such again, our curiosity was more than usually aroused. The show of beasts is immense ; the fields within two or three miles of the place are taken several weeks before for their standing, so that the principal part of the fair is not held in the street, but on the *adjacent farms*. The number of cattle, though this was considered but a small fair, we were informed exceeded *twenty thousand*. The business is chiefly done upon credit ; the breeders placing them in the hands of drovers, who drive them to the English markets, and sell many of them by commission. It was a highly gratifying sight : so many beasts of nearly one breed collected to one spot. The great conflux of people on this occasion, deprived us of the pleasure we intended to receive by examining the plants in its vicinity. Unable either to obtain provision, or be accommodated with lodging for ourselves or horses, we were under the necessity of proceeding on our journey.

Following the course of the river we came to Llechryd, or the *stony ford*, over which a handsome stone bridge has been lately erected. The rural tranquillity of this valley has been invaded by the noisy sons of Vulcan ; and the banks of this romantic river disfigured by a canal cut for the advantage of some iron and tin works, established here by Sir Benjamin Hammett, whose son has a handsome mansion here, called *Castell Maelgwyn*. The road

beautifully winds with the river through varied woods, by Strathmore, a seat of Mr. Steel, till you reach the village of *Kennarth*, where a deep ledge in the bed of the river forms a celebrated salmon-leap. The salmon are sometimes so plentiful as to be taken in quantities which far exceed the demands of the markets; in that case they are salted and dried, in which state the general price is 6*d.* per pound, and they are esteemed a high relish, and an infallible remedy for a disordered appetite: nor should I omit that the Teifi salmon are considered, by the Welsh epicure, superior in flavour to those of the Towey or the Wye. The fall is about fourteen feet, and the wear has for centuries been a source of great annual emolument to the proprietor. This now small village was formerly of more consequence, as it was the residence of St. Ludoc, and styled in MSS. *Canarth Mawr*. Four miles above is *New Castle Elmlin*, with the borough of Atpar on the opposite side of the river, joined together by an old stone bridge of several arches. The name is by some derived from the curve which the river makes just above, in figure resembling the letter *N*; others derive it from the number of elm trees which formerly grew in its neighbourhood. As Llwiffen, in Welsh, signifies elms,* Camden conjectured that this was the *Loventium Dimetorum* of Ptolomy; but the conjecture of Lloyd appears preferable to both. The British name is *Dinas Emilin*, i. e. *Urbs Emiliani*, from some lord or proprietor of that name; on the *Caermarthenshire* side of the river are the ruins of

* Among other plants in *Cwm Ywbwb*, we found the *ulmus montana*.

its castle ; this was erected by Rhys ap Thomas, the friend and favourite of Henry VII. who, on his march with his French troops to join the confederates at Shrewsbury, previous to the decisive battle of Bosworth, here halted, and was continually strengthened by the numbers of Welsh that joined his army. The front gateway is still standing, and the entrance is between two handsome octagon towers ; but from the situation of the building it appears to have been intended rather as a magnificent residence, than a place of defence. Meeting with an old college acquaintance here, we were enabled to make a variety of excursions favourable to our pursuits, and from the polite attention of the neighbouring gentry obtained much useful information. We were highly gratified in the survey of Mr. Lloyd's farms, on which a rational system of agriculture is pursued with vigour and effect. This Gentleman, with a truly beneficent spirit, takes two or three estates into his own hands till, by his improvement, he has shewn what the land will do, and then endeavours to let them to some industrious tenants, with the promise of every encouragement if they continue to pursue the profitable system : but such is the obstinacy of prejudice, that his endeavours to induce the farmers to follow his laudable example have proved ineffectual.

The town is small, and the church a chapel of ease to Kennarth. The inhabitants are supplied with water from the river, which, for culinary purposes they carry to their cottages in wooden pitchers, hooped like a barrel. Their linen, for the purpose of washing, they bring to the river side, and after soaking it in pools formed by excavations in the bed

of the river, they place it upon a level part of the rock, and with a flat piece of board, accommodated with a handle, they beat it till they suppose the dirt is sufficiently discharged, and then spread it upon the large stones lying in the river to dry. How far such a plan may be economical, I know not ; but it saves fuel, an article of consequence to the poor of this district. The summer was uncommonly hot and dry, and the contributory streams to Teifi were unable to furnish their accustomed supplies, so that the bed of the river was left dry. No stream had run for some weeks, and the little water in the pools was almost used or evaporated. The inconvenience arising to the town may be better imagined than expressed : a general want of this essential article was experienced, and dreading still worse in future, a general consternation seized the minds of the people, who began to believe that a judgment had fallen upon the place, and that their great and venerable benefactor would never be able to befriend them any more.

After visiting the woods of Hênllan, and that part of the vale above Llandyssil, we turned our steps towards the sea. Leaving Mr. Lloyd's of Bronwyn on our left, and passing by Capel Drinidad, we came to a spot called Castell Gwyther, where stood the palace of Vortigern, struck down by lightning as a judgment on the numerous crimes of that incestuous Prince : it is a high precipitous rock, without the least vestige of a building, and was probably no more than a British military post.

They have a curious contrivance in this country *for the preparation of their new corn for the mill.* As there is seldom any old corn by the time of harvest,

necessity obliges them to turn the new into bread, before it is naturally sufficiently hardened to grind; for effecting this in the most expeditious manner they dry it on a kiln, which is formed by laying several timbers across a pit, placing straw over these and throwing on the corn. At a small distance below they form a fire place, with a chimney communicating to the straw in an oblique direction. In this they burn furze, peat, or culm, mixed with clay. The corn by this means is in a few hours fitted for the mill.

Passing the village of *Troder aur*, we descended into the small but fertile vale of *Cwm Cerris*, through which the river of that name flows, bounded by wooded hills, and, leaping from crag to crag, falls a little below into the Teifi. On a lingula, or angle, formed by the conflux of a small rivulet into the Cerris, on a circular shaped hill, is a British encampment, consisting of two vallums and two fosses, called *Dinas Cerris*.

When Camden called this a champaign country, he could not have written from actual observation, for it abounds with hills and narrow vales, and much of it is high table land, unsheltered by woods, and exposed to every assailing element. Nothing surely can exceed the barrenness of the soil, or the poverty of the inhabitants. There are few inclosures, and these few are fenced by banks planted with furze, which, before it can arrive at sufficient maturity to become a useful fence, is cut by the needy farmer to support his half-starved cattle. In every direction the country assumes the same bleak and barren aspect; not a hedge or tree to diversify the scene; not a verdant field to relieve the eye, wearied with

the sight of such uniform sterility. A few straggling huts built of mud, having chimnies formed of wicker work, shewed the country was inhabited; and here and there a church or meeting house, in shape like a barn, reminded us that the important business of man was not entirely neglected by the inhabitants. Land, you will readily suppose, is not very valuable: from ten to as low as one shilling per acre, and that justly considered *too dear*. The country is divided, for the greater part, into small farms, so that the farmer and his hind are nearly upon an equality, and precedency at table may easily be dispensed with. The agriculture of this district admits of little variety; debarred the advantages of manure, the farmer's plan is simple and his system ruinous. The first error he commits is on the very threshold. The plough is so light and awkward, that the least obstruction throws it out of the furrow; he generally ploughs with two oxen and two small horses, whose unequal strength destroys that equality of draught so essential to good ploughing. He ploughs, or rather *scarifies* the land twice for barley; follows up the same crop three or four years; then limes and takes off four or five crops of oats, till, wearied out, the land refuses to be thus treated any longer, which he knows by what is called white grass appearing thicker than the crop that was sown, and the crop little surpassing the quantity of seed, five bushels (Winchester) per acre.* He now per-

* The acre of land in Caermarthenshire, and many parts of Wales, is the ancient *Cyfair*, less than a statute acre; but in Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire it is the *Erw*, rather more than a statute acre.

mits it to rest, taking up another portion of the farm to treat in the same ungenerous manner. Small carts, with a central pole, are used here for all the purposes of carriage; they are drawn by two oxen yoked, and one small horse as leader: the wheels of these are so badly fitted to the axle, that they are frequently a foot out of the perpendicular, and this wriggling, they are firmly persuaded, gives assistance to the cattle in ascending the hills. When I mentioned they were debarred the advantages of manure, I meant they make none at home, having no home-stalls; and as the farm yards are generally on a declivity, and destitute of a reservoir, the rains wash away every thing valuable as a manure. Lime is fetched from twenty to forty miles; for the Cardiganshire husbandman, having heard that this article produces wonderful effects in other countries, turns all his attention to this point, using it without the least discrimination, or any regard to the effects of a stimulus or an alterative. If this fail, which it too frequently does, he then, unable to account for the cause, gives up the business in despair, blames the nature of the land, and abandons himself to his miserable fate. Thus the land is very generally become exhausted, and the means of restoration at a great distance. Cattle, the great support for *arable land*, he has not money to purchase, nor, if he had, the means of subsistence; fallowing he does not understand, and the weeds destroy the little nourishment the soil may accidentally imbibe from the atmosphere: the arable, of course, becomes worse and worse. In what are termed good crops, it is usual to mow their oats and barley with a scythe, armed with a cradle, similar to those used in Pied-

mont, and bind them up in sheaves: but in the latter crops, the *straw is too short* to admit of it, and women and children are employed to pluck it up, taking it in handfuls, and striking the roots against the ground to clear them from dirt. This custom they term *cittio*, and conceive they save much of the straw for fodder, without considering that when oats are fit for gathering they are liable to shed, and by this injudicious practice they lose half the crop.

No wonder after this that the farmer is very little different from the peasant, and that the pride and sinews of a country, an industrious and respectable yeomanry, does not exist here. After harvest, having no further employment, they dismiss their labourers, who are consequently exposed to idleness and want. Indeed, the common people throughout this country are not only poor, but appear completely dejected, as if they had given up every ray of hope of being otherwise. It is observed that they are indolent, and that indolence inevitably superinduces poverty: the remark is just, but it should be recollected, that when the mind is depressed by poverty beyond a certain degree, the spring of exertion is unable to act, the motives to industry have lost their force, and the power of habit prevents application. Only furnish these people with the means of employment, and let them just taste the benefits arising from it, and you would soon see them as industrious as in other places: but such is the real poverty of this part of the kingdom, and the pressure of the times from a long and unprecedented war, that the proprietors of estates have been reduced to the necessity of taking every kind of tax

upon themselves, to preserve their tenantry from becoming paupers. To people reduced to this miserable state no hope could be presented, but by suggesting a distant country: the Americans, by their agents, had learnt the condition of these people, and sensible of the importance to their states of increasing their population, they had held out the lure of future competence. By this means the spirit of emigration was enkindled, and thousands of these unhappy wretches were embarking for the new continent, expecting to find in that distant clime a country and situation directly opposite to their own. Their case was lamentably melancholy: ignorant of the country to which they were going, and the nature of the employment in which they were to be engaged; to obtain their passage, they accepted the agent's own terms, and thus ignorantly became the property of these human harpies. So ignorant were many of them, that before they lost sight of land they supposed they must be arrived; and after arriving there, were sold as slaves into the back settlements of Vermont and Kentucky: others that were able to pay their passage there, finding the nature of the country, were desirous to return; but, unable to pay for their passage back, were obliged to engage in the most servile employments, and submit to the most degrading condition, to escape death from hunger. Much was done by the gentry to prevent their being thus duped, and to shew them that though their case was bad, they might be flying to a worse situation. I cannot, I ought not, to forget here to pay an honourable, because just, tribute of respect and gratitude to the nobility and gentry of this part of the kingdom, who were assi-

duously employed to ameliorate the condition of their countrymen, and if possible to prevent the evil of emigration to their country. The very circumstance of their almost constant residence was a proof of their patriotism; for none who did not consider it an incumbent duty to do good in his neighbourhood, would have chosen to reside amidst so much surrounding misery. I could, on this occasion, mention names of some whose conduct amidst these trying scenes would adorn Christianity, and dignify the name of man; I could shew you that they have done all in their power, and have had the mortification to see that all has been done in vain. Amidst extraordinary demands, they have been more than ordinarily liberal; and while bending under the weight of almost insupportable taxes, they have stretched out the hand of charity to their suffering neighbours: there appeared but one hand and one heart, to apply, if possible, an effectual remedy to the truly pitiable state of their country. Their unexampled exertions I admire, their patriotic zeal I revere, and may Heaven bless with the most ample recompense, their labour of love. To such minds, I am confident, a hint or two will not be ungraciously received. The first attention should be paid to fencing: land badly fenced, might as well be not inclosed; out-buildings should be annexed to every farm, for homestalling the cattle; a reservoir should be made at the lower extremity of every farm yard, that every thing fit for manure might be preserved, and the refuse fodder carefully thrown into it. Sheep-folding, particularly for the barley lands, should be encouraged; and the green crops, so essential for the sheep and breeding cattle in spring, should be an

article of agreement between landlord and tenant. After a plan for managing a farm has been laid down by the proprietor, every encouragement should be given, particularly by a lease of not less than fourteen, nor more than twenty-one years. Lending frequently small sums of money to enable the tenant to make the requisite improvements, and being reimbursed by instalments after harvest, would be very beneficial, the application to be directed by the landlord or his surveyor. The farm adjoining the mansion should be a practical and experimental farm, where every improvement might be seen, and every useful part of husbandry learnt, by inspection. Thus would a proprietor of a large estate have it divided into a number of farms, with a bailiff upon each, whose interest it would be to improve the land; thus would it be daily improving, and the rising generation of farmers gradually initiated in a rational system of agriculture; and by the increase of wealth accruing from such conduct, would be encouraged to persevere.

Passing Blaen y Porth, we found some intrenchments called *Castell Yndolig*, said to be a fortress erected by Earl Gilbert and his Flemings, which was taken and razed by Gryffydd ap Rhys, A. D. 1113, by the name of *Blaen Porth Gwythern*. This favours the conjecture that it was anciently a British post. A little below, on a small creek, is [Aber Porth, consisting of a few low mud cottages, possessing a few herring busses, and carrying on a small trade in making lime. They fetch both the stone and culm for burning it from Milford, and sell it as manure to the farmers for thirty miles round. Skirting along the coast to the northward, we came to a

cove, which, in point of beauty, exceeded every thing I ever saw of the kind : it is formed by a narrow strip of land, which, by a sudden depression between two hills, conducts you to a delightful sandy beach, unruffled by a single pebble. Here it exhibits several fine curvatures beneath the perpendicular schistose rocks, which form cliffs near six hundred feet high. To the south it is sheltered by the head lands of Pen y bryn and Pen Brybbach, and to the north by Moel y badell and Inys Llochdû. Impressed with the beauty of this place, and its excellence for sea bathing, we found on inquiry it was called *Traeth Saith*, i. e. the Sand of the Seven, from a tradition that seven Christian virgins, flying from persecution, were here stranded and saved from shipwreck ; these were a remnant of the numerous fair that were taken or persuaded to go into Gaul, to better their condition in those times of difficulty and danger. Ursula is said to have carried out of Britain 11,000 maidens of quality, besides 60,000 of inferior rank, in such reputation were the British fair at that period. Many of these refusing the brutal offers of his army, were slain by Attila, King of the Goths ; and others suffered a similar fate from the savage Huns ; and a church at Cologne still exists, dedicated to their memory.

Crossing *Pont yr Yanc* is Landissiliogogo, where David ap Evan entertained the Earl of Richmond and all his followers one night, in a style of true British hospitality, suited to the rank of his guest ; which the Earl afterwards, when King Henry VII. acknowledged by several presents, particularly a drinking horn, richly mounted with silver, and on a silver stand, which was afterwards presented to Rich-

ard, Earl of Carbery, and is now in the possession of John Vaughan, Esq. of Golden Grove, Caermarthenshire.

Near Inys Llochdù is a harbour called New Quay, the shelter of a nest of smugglers, who have several vessels of burden here; indeed, the principal trade of this coast appears to be contraband or illicit; and the hopes arising from this fraudulent species of gain induces the farmers to neglect their farms, and employ the labour of their cattle in this precarious concern, instead of the cultivation of the soil. The pernicious effects of smuggling, both to the interests of the country, and the health and morals of the inhabitants, is incalculably great: throwing out the lure of immoderate gains, it engages men in the most desperate undertakings; and, by facilitating the means of obtaining ardent spirits, encourages amongst the lower orders drunkenness and debauchery.

Crossing the mountains we descended into the vale of *Airon*, intending to halt for the night at a small inn, called Aber-airon: but though our horses were jaded, the night perfectly dark, the rains pouring in torrents, and the wind blowing a hurricane, yet the good lady of the house, feeling an independence she was proud to assert, refused us admittance, observing that she had but two spare beds, which were already occupied; and that numbers of people, who had previously arrived, were sitting up in the parlour to wait for the morning light to pursue their journey. Finding that it was twelve Welsh miles to another inn, and pitying our beasts more than ourselves, we determined to alight; after parleying amidst torrents of rain, and pleading bu-

manity in vain, I suggested an appeal to that hospitality for which the country is famed, which had the desired effect: the hostler was called, a fire kindled in a small parlour, dry things brought, a comfortable supper prepared, and the best beds made an ample compensation for the previous painful state of anxiety.

I am, Yours, &c. J. E.

LETTER XIII.

DEAR SIR,

THE morning was peculiarly fine, which enabled us to admire the verdant strip of romantic scenery, through which the Airon flows, under a neat stone bridge, a little below the house, into the sea; and reminded us of Ivy Bridge, Devonshire, where a similar stream passes under a bridge like this, with a neat inn built at the foot of it. We soon gained sight of Llanrysted, a village of mud-built cottages, with a very neat church, standing upon the top of a high hill to the south-east. On the sea shore are some ruins, said to be the remains of a religious house, but are evidently those of the castle built by Cadwallader, brother of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, A. D. 1148, who bestowed this part of Cardiganshire on his son Howel. It was considered a strong fortress, and very early after its erection its strength was tried: the sons of Gryffyd ap Rhys entered *Is Airon* with a confederate force, but the siege of this castle cost them the flower of the army; and its obstinate resistance so

enraged the young chieftains, that when it surrendered they inhumanly put the whole garrison to the sword. Part of the ruins have been washed away by the sea, and the rest are likely soon to share the same fate.

From Aber Airon to this place there is an extensive flat, between the sea and the mountains that bound it to the east, famed for the production of barley, and on inquiry we found that the produce was equal to its fame. We had often heard of the sterility of Cardiganshire, and we had witnessed it; but had we not visited this part, we should have been slow to believe that there was land which produced from sixty to eighty bushels per acre. Some was now cut, and others standing; and both in point of straw and ear I never witnessed any thing like it, except in the vale of Evesham. *These lands have been under barley for forty years, without a single intervening crop.* In the winter the cattle come down the hills, and graze the stubbles, which in March or April are turned up, and the sea wreck thrown up by the waves on the coast collected and ploughed into the land *wet*, they being careful to cover the same day as much as they draw, having learnt, by experience, that if suffered to become *dry*, its virtue is lost. This dressing lasts three years, when they again pursue the same plan. From this simple process do these almost incredible effects invariably proceed: yet the custom seems to have been the effect of chance confirmed by habit, for we do not find that the inhabitants of any other part of the coast adopt this method of enriching themselves by the bounties which Providence has thrown in their lap.

About two miles from this village we observed two rude upright stones, one of them twelve feet high, and five feet and a half in breadth at the lower end, and the other little inferior in size or height.

We now passed over a high ridge of land, enjoying the most delightful scenery, till we found ourselves on the banks of the Ystwith, which crossing by a stone bridge of one arch, we climbed a high slate hill, and descended into the vale of the Rheidol, and crossing a very handsome stone bridge,* entered the town of Aberystwith, which stands at the conflux of the Rheidol ; but the port is below at the mouth of the Ystwith, which forms but a poor harbour, there being a bar of shifting sand at its mouth, passable for ships of the smallest burthen only at high spring tides. The town, as you approach it, appears upon a bold eminence, overhanging the sea. The streets are steep, and badly paved ; but the houses are decent, most of them erected or rebuilt within a few years, it having become a place of fashionable resort for sea-bathing. Lodgings are procurable here at a price as high as Weymouth. The sand is fine, but too open and exposed to the strong western gales ; and the want of walks, with the dreary flat that surrounds the town at the opening of the vale, render it little inviting as a place of residence. A number of fashionables, however, were here ; and six machines and two pleasure boats were in constant employ. A boarding table, with

* In 1796, from the extraordinary thaw, the old bridge experienced the fate of many in England and Wales, being blown up by the sudden swell of the river. The present, of six arches, was erected by that unrivalled architectus pontilis, Edwards of Dolgelly.

good accommodations, and at reasonable charges, is kept at the Talbot; and strangers cannot fail to be satisfied with the urbanity and attention of Jacob Jones.

Here was a herring fishery, but the fish do not as formerly frequent the coast. Some little business is done in ship building, and one was now nearly completed of three hundred tons, but it was uncertain when she would be able to put to sea.

It was formerly fortified with walls, some of which still remain; but as the stones are constantly taken for building, they will soon be no more. Its ancient castle is reduced to a few mouldering walls, with one tower standing, which serves as a sea mark. The gateway is bold, and before it is a modern ravelin, probably the work of the Parliamentary army. It was built by Gilbert Strongbow, 1107; but was afterwards razed to the ground.

The castle of which we now were contemplating the remains, was the work of Edward I. who, when he passed into Wales, put those severe conditions upon them, called the Articles of Ruthlan, to which Llewelyn, for the sake of the beautiful captive, Eleonora, with whom he was previously enamoured, submitted: thus, as the historian terms it, selling his country for a woman. To secure the performance of these, Edward built this among other castles. It was taken by some South Wallian Lords, 1281; but after the death of Llewelyn, it quickly again fell into the hands of the English. Round the hill on which it stands, a variety of walks have been made for the accommodation of the idle or the invalid, who may repair to the town; near which, as if to mock the fate of the royal structure, Uvedale

Price has erected a singular building for his summer residence. It is in the Gothic style, and castellated form, consisting of three octagon towers, with a balcony towards the sea. When I viewed this with the dilapidated fragments of the time-worn building by its side, I could not suppress a smile, and thought if the heroes of antiquity could return, with what contempt they would survey this mimicry of the antique.

The beach, which is a level sand northward of the castle, a few hundred yards in length, is succeeded by a bold shore of high schistose and shale rocks, several hundred feet high, worn into caverns and grotesque recesses, and their upper apertures affording a secure retreat for hawks, kites, sea-gulls, curlews, ravens, and other birds. Beneath these is a reef of *quarter-tide* rocks, extremely dangerous in blowing weather to ships making the port; these at low water form pools abounding with eels, crabs, and other shell fish, and furnish the naturalist with a variety of corallines and fuci.

In this vicinity are numerous slate quarries: they are on the rising ground on the opposite side the marsh. The slate lies in alternate strata of shale. The slate puts on the appearance of flag stone in the quarry, but when quarried out easily divides into thin laminæ. The shale appears like the slate, but when quarried falls into pieces of two or three inches long, containing much argillaceous earth between the laminæ. The inclination of the strata in these quarries is in all directions from vertical to horizontal, approaching the former as they abound with slate, and the latter as they contain a greater quantity of shale; and this I have found from observation

to be generally the case in shale and schistose rocks. The plants we principally found in the neighbourhood were, for the most part, such as grow on or near the sea shore ;* we added, however, several habitats to our list.

The country around Aberystwith abounds with lead mines ; the most considerable were those of Talybont and *Bwlch yr Eskir*. The ore is generally found in a matrix of calcareous spar, or carbonate of lime. Some little has been found in the veins of quartz and fluor spar, that frequently intersect the strata of the schistose mountains. The Romans began to mine here, as is apparent from some of their coins, which they performed by downright shafts, or rather trenches. After this it is probable they were neglected till, about the latter end of Elizabeth's reign, Customer Smith discovered silver in Cwm Samloch, and sent it up to the tower to be coined. Whether there were silver mines at an early period in this country, remains a doubt : Strabo, however, (Lib. iv. 6. 305) enumerates this metal among the productions of Britain ; if not, the inhabitants must have understood the art of extracting it from lead, for we find a silver *British coinage* so early as the time of Augustus, (Vid. Pettus Fod. Reg.) Silver is so generally found in lead, that it is reckoned a curiosity to find lead ore totally devoid of silver ;

* Among others were *scilla verna*, *triglochin maritima*, *statice armeria*, *plantago maritima*, *plantago coronopus*, *cucubalus otites*, *chelidonium glaucium*, *cochlearia officinalis*, *anthyllis vulneraria*, *convolvulus soldanella*, *elymus arenarius*, *nymphæa alba*, *euphorbia peplis*, and the rare and elegant *pulmonaria maritima*.

and it was this which lead the alchemists into the error that lead, by a certain process, was transmutable into silver. Some ores contain three or four hundred ounces of it in a ton weight ; the ores of Cardigan-shire, particularly those near Dale, have at. times afforded large quantities, hence they have obtained the name of the Welsh Potosi. These mines were so rich as to contain one hundred ounces per ton ; and Sir Hugh Middleton is said to have cleared two thousand pounds per month, which enabled him to undertake and accomplish that stupendous work for supplying the city of London with water, *the New River*, or canal, from Ware in Hertfordshire, an extent of near forty miles ; on some of his portraits there is an allusion to these two great undertakings : *Fontes & Fodinæ*. After the death of Sir Hugh, Sir Francis Godolphin and Thomas Bushell undertook the management of them, King Charles I. granting them the privilege of coining : the indenture was granted to Thomas Bushell (Sir Francis appearing to have been a sleeping partner) for the coining of half crowns, shillings, and sixpences, and the money was stamped with the plume of ostrich feathers on each side. A mint for this purpose was established at Aberystwith. Soon after this the rebellion broke out, and the work was discontinued ; Bushell, however, was not unmindful of his duty, or of the immunity he received, but used every exertion in behalf of his unfortunate Sovereign, converting the profits of the mines, as far as they would go, to support the royal cause. Part of the King's army was paid with *Welsh silver, minted at Shrewsbury*, (Vid. Pettus Essay on Metals.) For these services, at the Restoration, Bushell had a

grant of the Island of Lundy, by the title of governor.

The mines of Bwlch yr Eskir, the property of the Pryces of Gogerthan, were discovered 1690. Mr. Waller, steward to Carbery Pryce, published a map, accompanied with a particular account of them. At that time the law adjudged every mine to the crown, the ore of which contained sufficient gold or silver to allow of the loss of the baser metal in the expense of refining. This was consequently claimed as a *royal mine*, by the patentees producing proof in Westminster Hall, that the lead of this mine contained sixty pounds of silver in every ton: whilst the proprietors produced contrary proof, that it yielded to the value only of four pounds. This and similar disputes were prevented soon after by the act passed the 6th of William and Mary, which enacts that every proprietor of a mine, containing copper, tin, iron, or lead, should remain in possession of the same, although it might be claimed as a royal mine, with the proviso that their Majesties' heirs, &c. should have the privilege of purchasing all the ore raised out of such mine, at the prices stated in the said act: i. e. copper ore, washed and made merchantable, at the rate of 16*l.* per ton; iron ore, 2*l.*; tin, 2*l.*; and for lead, 9*l.* per ton. The latter price was at the time higher than the ordinary price of lead ore, it not averaging more than 7*l.* per ton. It is a question proper for the consideration of the British senate, whether the clauses of *pre-emption* should not be altogether repealed, as many lead mines, rich in silver, are neglected, from the difficulty and expense of working.

In the entrance of the vale of Rheidol, which,

Village of Llanbadern Fawr.—Pont y Pren. 341

issuing from a spring at the foot of Plinlimmon, and running in a westerly direction, flows into the sea at Aberystwith, is the village of *Llanbadern Fawr*, supposed to be the Mauritanea, where the eminent Saint Paternus, a native of Bretagne, in the sixth century founded a monastery, or rather a conventual church, and a Bishop's see, where, as the writer of his life expresses it, "he, by feeding, governed, and, by governing, fed, the churches of Cretica, i. e. Cardigan." After his death the see soon merged into that of St. David's; and it thus early fell, according to Roger Hoveden, because the people were so wicked as to slay their pastor: this was Bishop Idnert; and this event is supposed to be alluded to on a stone found in the church of *Llandewi Brefi*, the inscription of which is copied in Camden. The church with its revenues was given, A. D. 1111, to St. Peter's in Gloucester, and afterwards to the abbey of Vale Royal in Cheshire, (Vid. Tanner.) The vale here becomes inclosed with lofty mountains, adorned with verdure to their summits, interspersed with bare cliffs and hideous crags, on which sports the native animal of the country, informing you that human habitations are not near. At the foot of these, in angry and tumultuous roar, the river labours to flow over the huge fragments of rock which sullenly impede its impetuous progress. Here, amidst an enviable assemblage of verdant foliage, grotesque shapes, and variegated tints, that afford endless variety to the eye, and constant food for the imagination, is a most striking scene called *Pont y Pren*, or *Melinciom Rheidol*. On one side of the river, dark sullen rocks rise in stern majesty near four hundred feet high, opposed on the

other by inferior cliffs. Through a chasm between two of these, issues a mountain stream, that, in delivering its waters to the bed of the river, which is far beneath, forms a delightful cascade. On this sequestered spot is erected a grist mill, the access to which is by a bridge formed of the trunk of a tree, with small poles placed as rails on each side, scarcely strong enough to prevent the lightest weight from precipitating headlong into the chasm which frightfully yawns beneath. You now approach that part of the valley where the Monach flows into the Rheidol, near the conflux of which is the stupendous and justly admired structure, called Pont ar Mynach, or the Devil's Bridge, which a comfortable inn fitted up by Mr. Johnes at the foot gives the traveller an opportunity of surveying at his leisure. Embosomed with impending rocks and impenetrable thickets, it is probable many a person, stranger to the country, has passed over the bridge without adverting to this object of public curiosity. The surrounding scenery is peculiarly bold, and gives fancy sufficient room to form her airy phantoms. Where the Monach flows through a chasm about thirty feet wide, a bridge was thrown over by the monks of Strata Florida, about the year 1075; and Gyraldus informs us that Baldwyn, Archbishop of Canterbury, when preaching up the crusades, passed over it, 1288. From the difficulty which presents itself to the beholder, in throwing a bridge across such a chasm, the founder is supposed to have been indued with magic power, and thence it obtains its infernal name. About a century ago the original structure was thought insecure, and an arch of a greater chord was thrown over it, the old one serving to support

the scaffolding for the new. Both are seen to advantage by descending a staircase path, down a slippery shale rock, to the margin of the river. The height of the bridge is only to be ascertained by art; the eye, surprised by the awful grandeur of the scene, entirely loses its faculty of judging; for whether you take the view from the east or west side of the arch, the mind is filled with mingled sensations of fear and delight. Below the bridge the river rushes with irresistible violence, and foaming over fragments of fallen rocks, bursts upon the sight with inconceivable wildness, and precipitates its waters in a succession of falls amidst rugged rocks, which, interrupting its impetuous progress, give it redoubled rage, till, as though wearied with contention, it mingles its waters peaceably with the *Rheidol*. The appearance of one fall is peculiarly singular: a huge fragment of rock projecting over the river, precipitates the water to a great distance, and in inexpressible directions. "This cataract," says the ingenious Mr. Cumberland, in his description of Hafod, "has no equal for height or beauty that I know of; for although it is a streamlet compared to the famous fall of the Narri in Italy, yet it outrivals it in height, and surpasses it in beauty. After passing deep below the bridge, as through a narrow firch, with noises loud and ruinous, into a confined chasm, the fleet waters pour headlong and impetuous; and leaping from rock to rock with fury, literally lash the mountain's side; sometimes almost embowered among deep groves, and flushing at last into a fan-like form, the fall rattling amongst loose stones of the Devil's Hole, where to all appearance it shoots into a gulph beneath, and silently steals away. For

so much is carried off in spray during the incessant repercussions it experiences in this long tortuous shoot, that, in all probability, not half the water arrives at the bottom of its profound and sullen grave." The height of the successive cataracts has been thus given : from the bridge to the water, 114 feet ; first fall, 18 feet ; second, 60 feet ; third, 20 feet ; grand cataract, 110 ; total from the bridge to the river, 322. The rocks, on each side the latter fall, rise perpendicularly to the height of nine hundred feet, and are for the most part richly clothed with vegetation.

In this vicinity a vast tract of country has been decorated with extensive plantations, by the truly patriotic Mr. Johnes ; nor can the surprize, perhaps, be equalled, which is felt on contrasting this highly ornamented territory with the bare and barren ridge which separates the two rivers, Rheidol and Ystwith. Nature has done much, but art has done more : the declivous banks of the Ystwith are covered with the finest woods ; and a handsome Gothic mansion, erected on an elevated spot commanding the vale, with the river meandering below, graces a capacious lawn, which in its turn gives an additional effect to the building. A variety of extensive walks are laid out with great taste over the surrounding heights, and through the numerous cwms, with vistas that command the most delightful views. We were so circumstanced as not to have the time we wished at this interesting spot for botanical researches, and we promised ourselves a future treat when the worthy proprietor should be at home. Indeed, as Cumberland observes, "*Hafod* is a place in itself so pre-eminently beautiful, that it highly merits a particular

description." To his account of Hafod, therefore, accompanied by a topographical plate, we must refer you. Leaving so delicious a spot with regret, we passed a large upright unsculptured stone, called *Maen Arthur*, commemorative of some British chieftain who fell in battle near; and passing the bleak and dreary cwm, Ispitty Ystwith, reached *Istrad Meirig*, where formerly stood a castle which figured on the page of history during the struggles of the Welsh to preserve their independence, and the unnatural quarrels amongst each other, which continually sapped their strength, and rendered them vulnerable to their enemies. At this place is a celebrated grammar school, well endowed, and, under the laudable auspices of the present worthy master, in a flourishing condition; hence is dispensed most of the learning acquired in this part of the principality, and it is one of the four schools in South Wales that qualify the students for holy orders. Nothing can exceed the astonishing variety observable in this part of the country; you descend into one vale only to climb another hill, and gain one ascent only to prepare you for another of more difficult access. Nature seems to have thrown about hills in sport; for mountain ranges behind mountain in almost every direction; you literally, like *Æneas*, pass per montes præruptos, per paludes, et in via saxa. Here is the remarkable spot of *Crag-muillin*, mentioned by Leland, whence the eye can recognize nine lakes, i. e. Llyn Helign, Llyn Teifi, Llyn Hîr, Llyn Gorlan, Llyn Gronv, Llyn Verydden Fychan, Llyn *Verydden Vawr*, Llyn Ynigen Velin, and Llyn Dû; most of these abound with trout and eels, and are from half a mile to two miles in length, and

346 *Thunder Storm among the Mountains.*

from a quarter of a mile to one mile in breadth : among these the largest is Llyn Teifi, out of which rises the river of that name. Llyn Ynigen Velin, i. e. the yellow lake of the quaking moor, is characteristic of this part of the country, which abounds with bogs and swampy moors,* of little value for pasture, but of unspeakable utility to the inhabitants of a district so destitute of fuel. Here are numerous turbaries, by which many of the poor inhabitants procure a livelihood in digging peat for sale. The surrounding hills afford, up their sides, fine pasturage for cattle ; and during the summer months numerous havodtys† are ranged amidst the mountains ; but the country, from inattention or poverty, is not half stocked, and the grass, to the great injury of the soil and loss of the country, frequently rots upon the ground. They have scarcely any idea of demarcation, ranging with their cattle for grazing where situation may induce, or inclination lead.

The mountains from Cregnaullin form a magnificent amphitheatre, with but one apparent entrance, which is *Nant Teifi*. In this we had to experience a most tremendous, and truly awful and sublime phenomenon, *a thunder-storm amidst the mountains*. To those unacquainted with alpine countries, imagination will be able to form but very faint ideas of

* Many of these have been formed out of the waters by the *carex cæspitosa* and *scirpus cæspitosus* spontaneously spreading their bushy roots and leaves, first forming footing for men and cattle ; at length, by furnishing shelter for other plants, they turn the lake into a moor. Here are also *swertia perennis*, *parnassia palustris*, *narthecium ossifragum*, *poa aquatica*, and *aira cæpitosa*, with a viviparous panicle.

† For an account of these, see Tour in North Wales.

the horror excited by thunder and lightning in these wild and mountainous places. It was near the autumnal equinox, when tempestuous weather is most frequent; the thunder rolls with a loud and awful rumbling over your head, and passing along the sides of the hills, is reverberated through the vales with redoubled noise in almost endless repercussion; while the blue forked lightning, flashing in every direction through the passes of the mountains, induces you to imagine that you are surrounded with fire; the contending clouds pour torrents of rain, which, running like rivers down the cwms, form floods under your feet as you pass the vales beneath. Measuring the distance of some clouds, we found ourselves at times nearer than was perfectly consistent with security; and though we reflected that the instances of injury from lightning are rare, yet we were unable to dismiss all apprehension on the occasion. To those who, like our guide, consider every clap of thunder as the effect of God's wrath, and every flash of lightning as the minister of Divine vengeance, the terror must be great indeed: it was strongly visible on the poor fellow's countenance; in vain did we endeavour to make him acquainted with the nature of its formation in the atmosphere, and assure him that it was beneficial, as clearing the air from noxious vapours, and fertilizing the ground; and that no injury could arise but by too great proximity to the clouds, which we had now escaped—every new clap or flash would overturn all our reasoning, he would instantly turn pale as death, stop his ears with his fingers, and mutter ejaculations for his own safety; nor was it till some time after the storm had ceased,

that tranquillity was restored to his perturbed breast.
We here recollected the amiable authoress :

“ Let pallid guilt with pallid fear
To sheltering caverns fly,
And justly dread the vengeful fate
That thunders through the sky.
Protected by that hand, whose law
The threat'ning storms obey,
Intrepid virtue smiles secure
As in the blaze of day.
In the thick cloud's tremendous gloom,
The lightning's luid glare,
It views the same all-gracious Power,
That breathes the vernal air ;
Through Nature's ever-varying scene,
By different ways pursued,
The one eternal end of Heaven
Is universal good.”

Miss Carter.

After such an uncomfortable rencontre, conceive the gratification to us, as well as to this vassal of superstition, afforded by a *cur*, whose barking announced that we were not far from a human habitation. It was one of those poor huts that are thinly sprinkled by the sides of the hills, inhabited by peaters and shepherds. As we approached, first one and then two more fine children, almost in a state of nudity, ran out to see what little *Turch* could be so alarmed-at. A stout fresh-coloured woman, with dark sparkling eyes and black hair, made her appearance, habited in a striped gown and flannel petticoat, who seeing our condition, welcomed us by the most inviting sounds in her language to her little cot. It was partly formed by an excavation in the slate rock, and partly by walls of mud mixed with chopped

rushes, covered with segs, and having a wattled or basket-work chimney. The entrance was at the gable end, facing the south east, which was defended during the night, or in very cold weather, by a wattled hurdle, clothed with rushes. A wall of turfs for fuel served as a partition for the bed-room, furnished with a bed of heath and dried rushes in one corner. The furniture was such as necessity dictated: some loose stones formed the grate; two large ones, with a plank across, supplied the place of chairs; a kettle, with a back stone for baking oaten cakes, answered every culinary purpose; and two coarse earthen pitchers stood by for the preserving or carrying water and *dodgriafel*, the usual beverage of the family. On our making some inquiries respecting the neighbourhood, she expressed a wish that her husband had been at home, as he would have been able to have given us the desired information. *You have a husband* then, said I? with a smile of approbation upon her face, she replied, Yes, blessed be God! he and his father before him were *born* here; and she was as happy as any of the *great folk*, for that he loved her and his children, and worked very hard, and they wanted for nothing he could get for them: he was a *peater*, digging peat in the adjoining moors, and curing it for sale. Asking what wages he might get, she said that depended upon the weather, sometimes six shillings in the week, and sometimes three or four; that they had a little cow on the lease, and a few sheep upon the hills. What assistance do *you* give? said I: she observed, shaking her head at the time, that she could do but very little; her work was knitting, at which, with the assistance of her two eldest girls,

350 *Picture of a Welsh Peasant's Family.*

one five and the other seven, if not interrupted, they could earn five pence a day; but that the younger children engrossed much of her time, and she soon expected another. Now, my friend, collect what they had to maintain a *family of seven*, a man, his wife, and five children!! The mother looked in health, and the children, though thinly clad, ruddy and smiling.

“ ————— Want, alas!
Has o’er their little limbs its livery hung
In many a tattered fold; yet still those limbs
Are shapely; their rude locks start from their brow,
Yet on that open brow, its dearest throne,
Sits sweets simplicity.”

Mason's Garden.

Indeed, there did not appear any thing like the misery and filth observable in the dwellings of many of the English poor, whose weekly income is four or six times as great. Though the floor was formed of the native rock, it was regularly swept with a besom made of segs, bound with a band of the same; and the fuel was as regularly piled as bread on a baker's shelves. All appeared in order, and the air of content apparent in the looks of this humble peasant and her family put us all justly to the blush; and a series of superior blessings, too often abused or too often forgotten, rushed instantly upon our recollection, at witnessing so much reason and gratitude in the habitation of penury. If we had reason to be thankful that we were not constrained thus to earn our bread, and live secluded amidst these mountains; we had still more so for the education which had given us greater degrees of knowledge, and, if not lost to ourselves, of greater happiness. We were anxious

to know in what school she had learned so *important a lesson* : Sir, says she, we regularly go to yonder church, pointing to the hills; and if it be bad weather, we stop at Mr. Jones's meeting by the way, where we hear much the same things : that all we have is the gift of God, and that if we possess health and strength, we possess more than we deserve ; if sensible of our utter unworthiness we sincerely believe in the Redeemer, and, following his example, perform the duties enjoined us in his gospel, relying for assistance on his Holy Spirit ; conducting ourselves with propriety in that state of life in which it has pleased God to call us, we shall, after death, change this poor uncertain life for a better, where we shall be for ever happy ; and the frequent interment of our friends and neighbours informs us daily this event can be at no great distance. Astonished at so much good sense and piety, where I so little expected to find it, I exclaimed, *Just step into this humble cot, ye rich and gay, and learn that happiness ye so earnestly seek in vain ; a happiness neither wealth nor pleasure can bestow. Do you think the roof too low ?* read Shakspeare.

“ A goodly day, not to keep house with such
Whose roof's as low as ours. Stoop boys, this gate
Instructs you how t'adore the heavens, and bows you
To morning's holy office. The gates of monarchs
Are arched so high, that giants may get thro',
And keep their impious turbans on, without
Good morrow to the sun. Hail thou fair Heaven !
We house i'the rock, yet use thee not so hardly
As prouder livers do.”

Cymbeline.

In one of these bottoms are the ruins of *Ystrad Fleur*, or the abbey of *Strata Florida*, in the parish

of Tregaran, a small town about three miles distance. This was a Cluniac abbey, founded by Rhys ap Tewdwr, in the time of William the Conqueror, according to Camden; but according to Leland, a Cistercian house, founded by Gryffydd ap Rhys and Meredith, his brother. It was the grand mausoleum of the South Wallian Princes, and was immensely rich, valued at the Dissolution at £1226. 8s. 10d. it had a cell at *Llanabaz*, ten miles from hence, now called *Talsarn*, or the head of the Roman road, valued at £57. It is highly probable that the original foundation was Cluniac; but the Cistercian order becoming fashionable, this changed with the fashion of the times.

The church in Leland's time was large, having cross and side aisles, with a cloister, fraternity, and infirmary, which, he observes, were then in ruins; but it appeared, from the foundation, that the body of the church was originally sixty feet longer. He describes the cemetery employed by the neighbourhood, as very large and meanly walled with stone, and as being adorned with thirty-nine large yew trees; the base court of the abbey was also fair and large." (Vid. Lel. v. 5.) Of this magnificent structure, a Gothic gateway and a few mouldering walls are all that now remain. The old church-yard abovementioned is a very large plot of ground, still surrounded by a stone wall: the present consists of about two acres of it, in which stands a neat chapel near the visible site of the abbey. A large mansion, called the Abbey House, is occupied by a farmer; and scarcely a vestige of the splendid monuments, that must at different periods have been erected over the ashes of royalty, are now to be discovered.

I must not pass over this place without observing that it is principally owing to the learning and prudential care of the monks of this house, that the public are in possession of an accurate history of the principality, from the year 1157 till the final defeat and death of the last Llewelyn. The earliest and most authentic account we have of the Kings of Britain, at least in the form of regular history, is a *MS.* in the British, or American language, called *Brut y Brenhined*, brought here from Bretagne in France, by Gualter, Archdeacon of Oxford, in or about the year 1100. Geoffry of Monmouth's history is a free translation of this, though some moderns have doubted the authenticity, and even the existence of the original; accusing Geoffry of attempting to impose his own fables on the world as a genuine portion of British history. But, however fabulous his book may appear to those unacquainted with the nature of the times on which it treats, there certainly is an ancient copy still extant, called *Brut y Brenkinad*, preserved in the library of Mr. Davies, of Lanerk, co. Denbigh, (Vid. Wart. Diss. Poet. v. 1.) This *MS.* includes the history of Wales to the year 700: from this period Caradoc of Llancarvan took it up, and faithfully continued it from the most authentic documents to the year 1157. Several copies of Caradoc were deposited in different archives, and amongst others in those of *Ystrad Fleur*. The monks of this house carefully recorded every memorable event subsequent to that period, till the fatal defeat of the last Prince of the British blood that was able to assert the independence of his country, A. D. 1282. This was published in English by Dr. Powel, and further augmented by Mr. Wynne;

and is the book from which I have derived very considerable information respecting the affairs of Wales, and much illustration of the darker parts of English history.

Following the course of the river, we came to a poor but populous village, called *Rhydfendigaid*, or *the Blessed Ford*, the Teivi being here fordable, but a bridge of stone has for ages been thrown across it. The inhabitants of this part of the country are a stout athletic race, principally employed in the surrounding lead mines, and for the most part methodists : indeed there are few dissenters in this part of the country, properly so called, most of the methodists alternately attending the church, and considering themselves members of the establishment. Here is a meeting-house for their circuit preachers ; and indeed, within a few years, such has been the increase, that almost every hill exhibits a building like a barn, erected for the purposes of worship.

The mode of courtship, and the ceremony of the little wedding we noticed in North Wales, obtains here ; but some more attention has been paid to religion : they have been taught the criminality of having a community of wives, as well as been convinced of its unreasonableness and impolicy ; so that this outrage upon order and decency begins rapidly to subside.

In the lofty hill, called *Banau Bron y Mowyn*, much lead and silver ore are said to be lodged ; and the remains of mining are still visible, several deep shafts, with levels opening to the east at *Cwm y Graig goch*, are still remaining. What occasioned them to be abandoned is not said : perhaps the shafts became inconveniently deep, or the water flowed too

powerfully for the means they possessed of draining the mines. The sides of the hills now appeared clothed with woods, which abounded with the bilberry, dewberry, and raspberry. In a large meadow, in one of these bottoms, is the celebrated *Ffynnon Elwad*, whose waters are esteemed infallible in all complaints of the female breast. The land hence from the Teivi to Llyn y Maes, or the *Lake of the Field*, where tradition says formerly stood a town, is one continued marshy bog, abounding in turbaries, till you reach the small town of *Tregaron*,* having a church on a rocky elevation, with a square walled place on the north side for the depositing bones that might be occasionally dug up; but charnel houses have long been in disuse, and the custom so laudable has ceased here. About three miles to the south is the celebrated Llan Dewi Brevi; it is a poor village of mud-built cottages, situate about half a mile from the banks of the river. This church of St. David's is said to derive the appellation of *Brevi* from the brook of this name, which here flows into the Teivi; but the name of the stream happens to be *Brennin*; I should therefore derive it from *Prif*, with *i* at the end for the sake of euphony, i. e. the first or *principal church of St. David*, it being built and endowed in honour of that saint, for a precentor and twelve prebendaries, by Thomas Beck, Bishop of St. David's, 1187, and valued at the Dissolution at £38. 11s. Here must have been a church long before this period, as we find this was the place ap-

* A little below the town is a spring, where on Easter Sunday in the morning the nymphs and swains repair to treat each other with a small loaf, called *Bura Cân*, and drink of the pure water from the stream.

pointed for the synod to be held for the suppression of the Pelagian heresy ; and a sanctuary existed here, as well as at Llanbadern, 1106, which restrained the rage of the English when they laid waste the country to retaliate the ravages of Owen ap Cadwgan, (Vid. Powel.) It is stated, that by the authority of the Scriptures, and the aid of a miracle, the ground lifting up under David's feet, formed a hillock, whence he preached to a numerous audience, and ably and effectually confuted the Pelagian heresy, which rapidly began to spread through the churches of Britain. With the opinions of this arch-heresiarch you are well acquainted ; they were (without an appeal to the oracles of God) highly plausible, and adapted for the depraved nature of man ; they flatter his pride, conceal his native deformity ; they demand no humility, they inculcate no self-denial, and therefore were likely to be cordially embraced by a creature so prone to self-deceit and self-approbation. The synod consisted of the most holy and able men from the churches of Gaul and Britain, and was held A. D. 519 ; but according to Usher about the year 475. The doctrines were proved unscriptural, impious, and heretical ; and the British churches were confirmed in the sincere and genuine faith of the Gospel. At the close of this memorable council it was that Dubricius resigned the pall to St. David, the champion of truth, who, with the consent of his uncle Arthur, removed the archiepiscopal chair to the present see of St. David's. This small place you observe has, in an ecclesiastical view, a venerable claim ; but it still assumes a right to higher antiquity : various Roman coins, carved stones, and some bearing Latin inscriptions, have been dug up

at a place called *Caer Castyll*, and it is conjectured that this was the ancient *Lovantium*, which is placed by Ptolemy among the *Dimetæ*; and the remains of a Roman road, ending at *Talsarn*, proves the same.

The mountains in this part of the country, which perhaps in the wildness and variety of its feature stands unequalled, abound in grass on their sides and in the bottom, which, as we observed before, for want of cattle to depasture, it literally *rots upon the ground*. The frequent springs produce astonishing luxuriance among the different grasses: Nature here fairly points out, *with her own finger*, the advantages of *water meads*; shews that water is the best pabulum of plants, and at the same time exhibits the best mode of its application; the greatest luxuriance and verdure always appearing where there is the *least stagnation*. *Fescua fluitans*, *poa trivialis*, *poa praelonga*, *triticum repens*, *agrostis palustris*, *agrostis minima*, *aira aquatica*, and *alopecurus pratensis*, flourish to a prodigious degree, so that the surprizing *knot grass* of Maddington, Wilts, would cease to be a wonder here; it being probable that several grasses have been mistaken for one particular species, and that the Maddington grass owes its surprizing increase *to the same cause*. In this country there is no particular manufacture, each family making their own apparel, except that of *knitting*, in which they are so expert, that it has been observed they can knit a stocking while a goose is roasting, or a pot boiling: however they will knit more than a pair in a day. The custom we observed in North Wales of meeting in each other's houses, from a view of sociality and economy, is observed

here. They frequently knit what they call *guird* for no other wager but *honour*; they let loose from bottoms or balls equal lengths of yarn tied together, and the first that knits up to the knot becomes the *conqueror*, and receives the *praise*. This emulation tends to give them a great facility and quickness in the use of needles. Large quantities are got up, and sent to the *English markets*.

The country still assumes an air of wildness, high hills running in a north-easterly direction, as you pass the forest of Roscole,* through which the roads are difficult to trace, and arduous to travel. A perpetual succession of these, with verdure rising high up their sides, and woods, though thinly scattered, tended to diversify the prospect; and here and there a cottage, with the havodtys or summer dairies, relieved the dreariness of this secluded district, by the idea it afforded of some population.

I am Yours, &c. J. E.

LETTER XIV.

DEAR SIR,

DESCENDING into the vale of the Irvon, near the banks of the river are the mineral springs, called Llanwrtd Wells. Like their rivals at Llandrindod,

* At the entrance of the forest grow *swertia perennis*, *alium boreale*; and *Pomona* seems to have taken up her residence; for besides the wild apple and several species of *prunus*, were in close assemblage *ribes rubra*, *ribes nigra*, *ribes grossularia*, *rubus idæus*, *rubus chamæmorus*, and beneath your feet, in great profusion, the humble, but not less delicate *fragaria vesca*.

they contain a large quantity of hepar sulphuris, with a small quantity of neutral salts in solution, and are considered efficacious in all cases where the similar waters of Harrowgate are recommended. This is a celebrated spa for the South Wallian gentry; and though the access is difficult, and the accommodations bad, it is surprising how well they are frequented during the summer months, and the gaiety displayed in this obscure part of the kingdom.

About a mile to the south-east, in a low ground between the Cledaeth and the Irvon, are two rude upright stones, about a furlong asunder, nine feet above the ground, and about four feet broad; these were doubtless erected in memory of some princes or chieftains that here fell in battle. According to Powel, it was near this spot, on the banks of the Irvon, that Llewelyn was killed by Adam de Franc-ton, and the Welsh troops, after a desperate contest, completely defeated. The English being unable to force Pont Orewyn on the Wye, were by a Welsh traitor conducted to a ford below, where they made good their passage, and took the Welsh in flank and rear; by which manœuvre the day was won, and Welsh prowess and Welsh independence gave its expiring groan on the banks of the Irvon.

The small inn of Tavern y Prydd affords refreshments before the traveller ascends the mountain, over which the road leads to the south. By an easy descent it conducts you to the mansion of Glan Bran, situate in a well-wooded park, and thence to Llanymdovery, a poor irregular town, consisting of one wide street of thatched houses, with waters con-

stantly running through it : indeed so invaded and surrounded is it, that it may be styled the town of waters. At a small distance below runs the Towe, over which has been erected a handsome stone bridge, by the architect of Pontypnydd ; so that the cause of complaint in Leland's time is now removed : he observes, that many persons were often lost in fording the river for lack of a bridge. It must have been at an early period in a more flourishing condition : what have been the causes of its decay it would be perhaps difficult to conjecture. If law could support a falling place, this certainly would stand ; the number of attornies for such a place being incredible. What ten or a dozen lawyers can do in a place where the very property of the inhabitants must present a formidable barrier to litigation, I cannot devise. I should think that such an influx of men, interested in the quarrels of their neighbours, might be considered as a nuisance, and legally removed for the benefit of society. I recollect that in the rolls of Parliament, A. D. 1445, there is a petition from the commons of two counties, shewing that the number of attornies had lately increased from *six or eight* to *twenty-four*, whereby the peace of those counties had been greatly interrupted by suits : the commons therefore petition that it may be ordained that there shall be no more than *six common attornies for Suffolk, six for Norfolk, and two for the city of Norwich* ; any other person acting as an attorney, to forfeit twenty shillings. The King granted the petition, provided it appeared reasonable to the Judges. From no quarter of the King's dominions would such kind of petitions be

so strongly appropriate, as from most of the counties in Wales, but especially in the southern part of the principality.

Upon a small eminence between the rivers *Every* and *Bron*, which fall into the Towey just below, stand two sides of its ruined castle, built by Richard de Powns, upon whom King Henry I. had bestowed *Cantref Bychan*. It proved impregnable to the Welsh forces that came against it, under Gryffydd, A. D. 1113, who after a long and ineffectual siege retired from before it with a very great loss. It was however afterwards, 1157, taken by Prince Rhys. It again fell into the hands of the English, and was again retaken by Rhys ap Gryffydd, A. D. 1202; and shortly after, 1203, taken by the Prince of Powis, then in alliance with England; 1214, it was in the hands of Rhys Vychan, but surrendered the same year to the allied army of Welsh and Normans, under the command of Foulke, Viscount Cardiff.

But we must not leave this place, poor as it is, without remarking that it gave birth to the justly celebrated *Rees Prichard*, and was long the seat of his ministry; and we should be wanting both in ingenuousness and gratitude, if we did not pay a tribute of respect to so good and gracious a man. He was born, according to the *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, at this place, A. D. 1579; and after going through the usual course of education at the grammar school, he was sent at the age of eighteen to Jesus College, Oxford. Priest's orders he received at the hands of the Bishop of Colchester, Sunday, April 25, 1622, on the title of Witham, Essex, taking his degree of B. A.; the June following, and

the sixth of August the same year, was presented to the living of his native place. A. D. 1613, he was collated to the rectory of Llanedy in the same diocese, on the presentation of the King, qualified by being chaplain to Robert, Earl of Essex, and held them by a dispensation from the Archbishop of Canterbury. May 17, 1614, he was made a prebendary of the collegiate church of Brecknock, by Anthony, Bishop of St. David; and with the title of M. A. which degree he was persuaded to take by Dr. Laud, his diocesan, he was appointed chancellor of St. David, to which the prebend of Lawhadden is annexed, 14th September, 1626, on the resignation of Richard Baylis. He died at Llanymdover, Nov. 1644, and is said to have been buried within the church. In his life time he gave lands to the value of twenty pounds per annum, for erecting a free school for the use of the town: but the lands given were turned into money by some of his immediate descendants or relatives, and the principal embezzled, so that his pious design in a few years afterward was entirely frustrated. Some works of his were published in his life time; but a complete collection was published in one thick octavo volume, in London, 1672, under the title "Gwarth Mr Rees Prichard gynt Ficerer, &c. But what has immortalized his name among the pious Welsh is the treatise called *Cynwyl Cymru*, or the *Welshman's Candle*:" containing a variety of hymns, serious songs, and carols, or portions of scripture put into familiar Welsh verse, imitating the learned Grotius, who wrote his excellent treatise, *de Veritate Religionis*, in verse, which mode he chose because he observed things so delivered are more easily remem-

bered; and appeal more strongly to the feelings and affections of the heart. As it is remarked by Homer, that Clytemnestra did not incline to vice till she had lost him who was wont to sing to her in praise of virtue. By these means religion may be more easily conveyed to the minds of the ignorant, and certainly, so received, must be more easily retained, according to the divine Herbert :

“ A verse may find him whom a sermon flies,
And turn a pleasure to a sacrifice.”

These poems contain no high flights of imagination, abound with no peculiar traits of original genius, nor are they ornamented with the embellishments of poetry : they embrace the principal heads of moral and religious duty, and abound with short aphorisms adapted for the conduct of life. Intended to convey plain truths to the minds of the common people, they are in their language simple, and seldom rise above mediocrity. As the same truths are often repeated, of course tautologies are frequent ; and many of them being posthumous, they are very imperfect. A fair copy was prepared during the author's life time for the press, but was unfortunately lost during the civil wars, so that the present work, in the language of the editor, “ was taken from fragments, rough drafts, and foul papers.”

However, such was the enthusiasm with which this work was received, that it was, as soon as published, purchased with the utmost avidity, and soon in the hands and mouths of old and young. Indeed, it is scarcely credible with what uncommon pleasure it

was read and repeated, instead of the idle ballads, satirical lampoons, and such like wretched perversions of the sacred art of poetry, of which, before, the Welsh were extravagantly fond; scarcely any thing else was now to be heard in the streets or houses, and the very song of the shepherd or plough boy was taken from *Cymwal Cymru*. There is every reason for believing that this book very materially contributed towards the civilization of the Welsh, for in a few years, an almost entire change took place in the morals and behaviour of the whole country, inso-much, that the truly good and pious Bishop Bull became so charmed with the author's character for the unspeakable good he found on inquiry he had done, that the Bishop had a desire to be buried near him, and probably the reason was that his grave could not be found, as *there is not the least monument, tomb, or inscription to ascertain the place of his interment.*

For years this book was considered a sacred deposit in every house, lying beside the bible and common prayer; like them it was viewed with peculiar veneration, and considered of such importance as to be made a record for registering the ages of the family. We were sorry to find, on passing through the principality, that this work was not in such high repute as formerly, and that it was daily losing its high and justly deserved reputation among the common people.

Whether the present inhabitants are better than they were then we know not, but our author's pious zeal directed a severe philippic and remonstrance to the contemporaries of his native place.

" Ah me! Landoverly thou art wanting found,
For God thy sin has in the balance weigh'd ;
In dross and dregs alas dost thou abound,
Of thy Creator henceforth be afraid."

After twenty-four stanzas more in a similar style,
it concludes :

" Beware thou hold thy hand, and sin no more,
As swift as lightning is the wrath divine;
I give thee all the warning in my power,
If thou refusest it—the fault is thine."

The work was translated into English by the
Rev. William Evans, vicar of Lawhaden, whence
the above stanzas were selected.

In looking eastward we seemed shut in by a range
of mountains called *Mynnydd Dû*, or the Black
Mountain. Over this barrier the road formerly used
to pass, and the traveller after attaining its summit,
and passing some miles over this dreary expanse, had
a very difficult descent into the Vale of Uske. This
great inconvenience is removed, by taking the road
round the base of the mountain, through a beautiful
wooded glen, called *Cwm Dwr*. There certainly are
in North Wales bolder passes, with grander accompa-
niments of ragged rocks and raging torrents ; but I
think nothing can exceed *Cwm Dwr* in the variety of
soft and placid as well as bold and mountain scenery.
You are enveloped by high hills with cultivation
annually creeping higher up their sides, and above,
sheep sleights covered with tens of thousands of that
useful animal. The lighter green of its verdure was
often contrasted with the darker tints of the baleful
yew. The road sometimes crosses, and at other

times runs parallel with the banks of the small river Gwrthrig; that beautifully meanders through the vale. Sometimes the hills appear to close, and again suddenly recede, leaving narrow verdant meads, with here and there a white-washed cottage on the banks of this pleasing rivulet. A few miles on the right, on a part of the Black Mountain, out of a fountain called *Blaen Wiske*, rises the river Uske, at the head of which vale stands the decayed town of Trecastle. This was once a large borough, with a well frequented market; but now a poor village, containing nothing worthy of observation but a good inn, and the ruins of a small castle which is one among many in a line from east to west, built by the Norman Baron, Bernard De Newmarche, in the time of William Rufus, who by a licence, granted from the King, to hold as much as he could conquer—entered on the work—defeated the Welsh forces—killed Bleddyn ap Meredydd, and seized by violence on this part of the country. He was, however, politic enough, by way of making out a feasible title, to marry Nêst, daughter of Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales, a woman that perhaps has never had her equal for outrageous infamy. Possessed of a most abandoned and revengeful spirit, she publicly sacrificed her own character to disinherit her son of his lawful patrimony. Mabel, only son of Bernard de Newmarche, by Nêst, ill-treating a young nobleman with whom his mother had an intrigue, she “iram atque animos a crimine sumens,” took a solemn oath before King Henry II. that Mabel was born in adultery, and could not be considered as the legitimate heir of Bernard, whereupon Mabel was disinherited,

and his sister Sybylla obtained the lordship, and by marriage conferred it, with her hand, on Milo, Earl of Hereford.

We were now in the forest of Brecknock or *Muis-car*. Here, Leland observes, persons used to be stopped, and toll demanded, for passing by a banditti that took up their residence here : it is also famous for the seat of a witch, who played a variety of tricks successfully for years on the neighbourhood, named *Matrabrwe*, i. e. Maud Aubrey, a descendant of the family of that name, which came into England with *Baron de Newmarche* ; but the woods being cut down, and the darkness dissipated, both the marauders and witches have entirely disappeared. The road now passes through a fine cultivated country, over several pleasant streams ; and the inhabitants who used to purchase their corn from Herefordshire, rear not only enough for their own use, but also for sale. If there had been no Roman remains in this neighbourhood, we might have conjectured they had once been in possession of this country, by a sport familiar among the inhabitants, called *Quintin*. It is practised by the yeomanry in Brecon, and, with a little alteration, in the county of Carmarthen.

On the morning of the nuptials of a freeholder, the bridegroom, attended by a company of his relations and friends on horseback, proceeds to the intended father-in-law's house to fetch home the bride. She, attended by a company of her friends and relations, is escorted by the former to church. The ceremony ended, they shape their course towards the house of the bridegroom. On the way, a spot is chosen near the road side, where a few flat planks are

368 *Roman Encampment.—Monumental Stone.*

placed side by side, as a stage; long thick sticks are then distributed to the spirited young men inclined to enlist in the connubial contest. Grasping these about the middle, and resting one end of them under their arms, they ride full speed against the planks, striking the sticks against them, in order to break them, and so the diversion ends. We do not know precisely how it was practised by the Romans, but Grævius informs us that it obtained its name from Quintus, being performed every fifth year at the Olympic Games. It is still practised in France and other parts of Europe; but no where is it observable but where the Romans had established their arms.

The hill called the Gaer has upon its summit a Roman encampment. It is situated on a rising ground, above the conflux of the Uske and the Eskir. The camp is in form a parallelogram of 624 feet by 456. The ruins of the walls are still visible several feet above the ground; the facings of hewn stone are like those at Caerwent, and the inside composed of loose stones. The farm house and offices are built of stones taken from the ruins, and the intrenchment is inclosed in the farm belonging to the family of Williams. Within half a mile of the house, the present road from Brecknock joins an old Roman causeway, leading from Caerleon to Ariconium (Vid. 12th Iter. of Antoninus.) Figured stones, urns, and various silver coins have been frequently dug up here.

About a quarter of a mile from the farm house, on the Roman road, is the monumental stone called Maen y Marynnion, and a vulgar story supposes it erected to the memory of two virgins, who were impiously murdered here; but on inspection, it evi-

dently appears to be Roman sculpture, representing a man and his wife, and still presenting part of the inscription, "conjux ejus....." It is about six feet high and three and a half broad. The figures are cut on an area about three inches from the upper and lower ends of the stone. Indeed, had the inscription been perfectly erased, the lineaments of this sepulchral stone would have been a perfect clue to its legitimate origin. The style of outline was that in which the ancients principally excelled, and which rendered them so superior to the moderns in the fine arts of painting and sculpture. It was in this the dark ages were so deficient, and it has been owing to want of attention to this single point that the most celebrated modern artists fall inferior in their exertions to the ancients. Although, mathematically speaking, there is no such a thing as *outline*, yet to be intelligible, we must use that line instead of boundary, for notwithstanding we see and conceive a figure without outline, I cannot pourtray the same on paper without an outline process. Outline, to be distinct, must have colour, and if it have colour, it represents a wire that encircles the design; but habit has taught us not to notice this, and we generally dwell with delight on the figure of this very defect. For we ought in fact to dismiss it if possible from our minds, and consider only the form it surrounds. To produce the desired effect of the figure appearing from the ground, the outline ought to be fine, firm, regular, flowing, and faint, such as were used by Raphael and da Vinci. Hence arises the beauty of shadows, and the pleasure they afford in possessing design visibly bounded, yet without the formality of strong outline; and it is this which renders the works of the ancients so simply

pleasing, and so strikingly expressive: they are formed by exquisite art, yet appear to be the result of chance.

This part of the country abounds with objects for the historian and antiquarian. About two miles distant, on a steep hill, called *Pen y Craig* is an oval encampment with three fosses, and two vallums of loose stones heaped on each other, which would support the conjecture that it was of British origin: For perhaps the following observation may be a clue to antiquarians. Roman fortifications are known by the herring back form of building, and the cement being made of boiling mortar; British, by loose aggera, or angular towers; Saxon, by circular walls and arches; and Norman, and Anglo-Norman, by square towers and pointed arches. As British churches are known by the deficiency of a tower and the name of *Llan*; and Norman, or English-Welsh, by the addition of a tower, and the appellation of *Eglwys*.

We now entered Brecknock, in Welsh *Aberhanddy*, so called from the conflux of the river Handdy with the Uske, upon which rivers it is pleasantly situated. It lays claim to high antiquity, for the founder is said to be *Brayhan*, a prince who had issue, beside several sons, twenty-four daughters, who were all saints; which Drayton in his *Polyolbion* works up into a poetical metamorphosis:

“For Brecan was a prince once fortunate and great,
Who dying, lent his name to that his noble seat;
With twice twelve daughters blest by one and only wife,
Who for their beauties rare and sanctity of life
To rivers were transformed, whose pureness doth declare,
How excellent they were by being what they are:

Who dying virgins all, and rivers now by fate,
 To tell their former love to the unmarried state,
 To Severn shape their course, which now their form doth
 bear ;

E'er she was made a flood, a virgin as they were,
 And from the seas with fear they still do fly :
 So much they yet delight in maiden company."

The name of one only survives, i. e. *St. Ceyne*. In Cornwall, near St. Neots, there is an arched well dedicated to this saint, with a water of remarkable virtue, that whether husband or wife come first after marriage to drink of it, the fortunate forerunner ever after obtains the mastery. If *St. Cadoc*, as is related, was a son of *Brayhan*, it must be placed about A. D. 492, (Vid. *Life of St. Keyne*, or *Ceyne*.) It perhaps is of still higher antiquity, for a variety of Roman remains have been discovered at different times in the vicinity. At the *Gaer Roman bricks* have been found, with the inscription *Aug. 11 Leg.* And so late as 1783, in digging up the stool of a large tree in a field belonging to *Jeffery Wilkins, Esq.* in the parish of *Llanfrynach*, were discovered a Roman hypocaust, baths, tessalated pavements, &c. so that there is reason to suppose this a grand Roman station, and to place here the *Burrium* of the *Itinerary*.

There are three churches, the most considerable of which is *St. David's*, where prayers are read in Welsh twice a week ; but what is considered as the superior is the collegiate church endowed by *Henry VIII.* out of the spoils of the religious houses, incorporating at the same time the foundation of *Abergwily*. The body consists of a dean, who is the Bishop of *St. David's*, a præcentor, treasurer, chancellor, and nineteen prebendaries. The church

includes a gateway, quadrangle cloister, refectory, and St. Mary's chapel of the ancient monastery.

The castle, the work of Bernard de Newmarche, stands in the suburbs, isolated by the river, over which is a bridge of two arches to enter the castle, but little more than the keep is standing: a few ruined walls serve as a clue to the former extent of the building. Just below the Handdy flows into the Uske, over which is a stone bridge of three arches. An attempt was made once to insulate the town with the two rivers, but after much money expended the scheme was abandoned.

The present is a good town, governed by a bailiff and fifteen aldermen, sends one member to the British senate, and has too well supplied markets in the week. Though old, it is for the most part handsomely built, the houses good, and the streets spacious, well paved, and generally clean. Many people of independent fortune live here, and the gentry from the surrounding country make it their winter residence.

Brecknockshire is mountainous and wooded, luxuriant in corn, and especially in excellent pasturage. Indeed the accusation of Leland is nearly as applicable now as it was then: "For the Walschmen yn tymes past, as they do almost yet, did study more to pasturage than tylling, as favourers of their consuetude idleness." About three miles from Brecknock, to the right of the road, is Mynich Denny, or Cader Arthur*, of which the geographer Speed gives this account: "The ancient inhabitants and possessors of this shire, with the rest in this southern tract,

* Here grows *sison verticillatum* and *arenaria verna*.

were the Silures much spoken of, and great opposites to the Romans, whose countries were first made subject by Julius Frontinus, who besides the valour of the enemy, had to struggle with the mountains and straits, as Tacitus tells us : neither any more hard we may well say than of this shore, whereof one in the south, and three miles from Brecknock, is of such height and operation as is incredible, and were it not that. I have witnesses to affirm what I say, I should blush to let the report thereof pass from my pen. From the top of that hill called *Mounch Denny*, or Cader Arthur, they had oftentimes cast from them, and down the north east side, their cloaks, hats, and staves, which notwithstanding would never fall, but were with the air and wind still returned back and blown up ; neither, said they, will any thing descend from that cliff, being so cast, unless it be stones or some metallic substance ; affirming the cause to be the clouds which are seen to racke much lower than the mountain." The greatest curiosity is a fine spring of water on the very summit. The hill, though erroneously, has been called the highest in Wales. In a clear day the view from this exalted station is very extensive ; the Malvern hills, Gloucester, Bristol, and parts of Devon and Cornwall greet the excursive eye.

We were now near the celebrated Brecknock *Mere*, or *Llyn Savathan*, called also Langor's Pool, from a village of that name in its vicinity. Gyraldus gives it the epithet of *Clamosus*, from the thunder-like noise heard here when the ice breaks upon a sudden thaw. The country people say and believe that a city once stood here ; but by a judgment of heaven for the sins of its inhabitants, it sunk into

the earth, and the water rose in the place. This idle story seems attached to most lakes, and probably arose from an association of ideas, not easily separable in the uncultivated mind, between all large bodies of water and the *dead sea*. Here it was that the flight of birds, by their chattering and fluttering, declared the legitimate right of Gryffydd ap Rhys ap Tewdwr to the lordship of the county, to the conviction of the spoiler, Henry I. which we before alluded to. It is two miles in length, and nearly one and a half in breadth; the greatest tried depth *thirteen fathoms*. The river Lleveny enters at the head of it, and passing through it, like the Dee through the Lake of Bala, by a kind of antipathy preserves its waters from intermingling with those of the lake. It commences at Llanviangle Cythedine, and ends at Llanviangle Taly Llyn, and formerly divided the Welsh Talgert from the seignory of Brecon. In violent winds the surge rises so high as to put on the appearance of a rough sea. After great rains Lleveny pours down from the mountains in such a rage as to bring much soil with it, assumes a red colour, and thus is distinguished flowing through the lake. This circumstance has given rise to much of the fabulous. It is said that a little before the invasion of the country by the Normans and English, 1030, the waters of Lleveny assumed a green colour, which quickly changed into blood red; and a similar phenomenon took place before the sanguinary war of the sons of Jestin.

The lake abounds with a variety of aquatic plants, which afford succour to the spawn, as well as shelter for the larger fish, with which it teems so much as have been compared to the Thysse in Hungary,

described as containing *two thirds water, and one third fish*. The principal are perch, tench, pike, trout, eels, chevins, congers, or umbers, &c. The otter sometimes frequents this nursery of his favourite food. Formerly there were plenty both of the otter and beaver, animals alike amphibious, and which are equally destructive of fish: of the existence of the latter animal in Wales, and his great instinct I have before spoken. (Vid. Tour in North Wales.) What tended to destroy this race, history does not inform us; however since the great scarcity of the latter, the skin of the former has become more valuable, and *otter's wool* is substituted for *beaver's fur*, most of what are termed beaver hats being composed of this with a mixture of inferior furs.

Passing the small towns of Tretower and Crickhowel, at each of which are the remains of a castle, we turned aside to view the ruins of Llantony Abbey. This was a Cistercian House, founded by Walter de Lacy, A. D. 1103; and afterwards more liberally endowed by Milo, Earl of Hereford. It is situated in the Vale of Ewias, or rather Nanthotheny, where the river Hotheny descends from a chain of mountains, called Mynydd y Cadair, in English the *Hatterel Hills*.* In the deep vale of Ewias, says Gyraldus, describing it as with a painter's pencil, which is about an arrow's flight over, surrounded on every side by encircling mountains, whose summits pierce the clouds, stands the church

* Dugdale in his *Monasticon* informs us, that this place was richly adorned with wood. If he could see it now the contrast must peculiarly strike him, as there is not a tree or bush to be seen near it.

of St. John the Baptist, roofed with lead, and built with hewn stone in no mean style, on the scite where stood before a poor chapel of St. David's, adorned with moss and clinging ivy." A spot, he observes, the best adapted for the purposes of real religion, and most calculated for canonical discipline of all the religious places in Britain. It was first pitched upon by two hermits, as being at a remote distance from the bustle of the world. The rains produced by the contiguity of the mountains are frequent, the winds violent, and the weather continually cloudy during winter; yet so mild and temperate the air, that disorders are rare. The monks sitting here in their cells, when they put out their heads for fresh air, which ever way they turn their eyes, behold the tops of the mountains, whose summits, reaching the horizon, are covered with plenty of *red and fallow deer*. In fair weather the sun is first seen here between one and three o'clock,* and

* During winter the sun seldom appears, and is seldomer seen in these mountainous countries: yet, when the weather is clear, it rises about nine o'clock and sets about three.

" 'Mongst Hatterlle's loft hills, that with the clouds are crown'd,
The valley Ewias lies, imured so deep and round
As they below that see the mountains rise so high,
Might think the straggling herds were grazing in the sky,
Which in it such a shape of solitude doth bear,
As Nature at the first-appointed it for prayer;
Where in an aged cell, with moss and ivy grown,
In which not to this day the sun hath ever shone,
That reverend British saint, in zealous ages past,
To contemplation lived; and did so truly fast,
As he did only drink what crystal Hodney yields,
And fed upon the leeks he gather'd in the fields:

then only just above the tops of the hills. Report of this singular place induced Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, the first man in the kingdom under the King, to pay it a visit. After viewing it for some time with astonishment, and beholding the brethren in the greatest harmony serving God in this solitude, returned to the King, and reported all that he had seen and worthy to be told. After spending a considerable time in praise of the place, he concludes his encomiums in these terms : " To finish my story, the whole revenue of the crown and state would not be sufficient *to erect the cloister.*" Keeping the King and court sometime in suspense, wondering at the paradox, he at length explained it by observing that he meant *the circle of mountains by which it was enclosed.*

Leaving this secluded retreat, we paid our respects to the *Skyrid Fawr*, or St. Michael's holy Mount. Here is a remarkable rent or chasm, occasioned by some convulsion of Nature : the tradition is that it was rent at the *crucifixion* of our Saviour ; and they add, as in Ireland, such is the sanctity of the ground, that no venomous reptile harbours here, or would live if conveyed hither. At a small distance, in the parish of *Cwmyoy* is a singular mountain, whose sides have at different times detached large fragments from them, leaving a perpendicular cliff near two hundred feet high, which they attribute to the same mi-

In memory of whom, in the revolving year,
The Welshman on his day that *sacred herb* do wear :
Where of that holy man as humbly they do crave,
That in their just defence they might his furth'rance have."

Drayton's *Polyolbion*,

raculous power which produced the phenomenon at Skyrid Vawr.]

Passing the little Skyrid, we entered the town of *Abergavenny*, which is situated on the conflux of the Gavenny and the Uske, and was the Roman Gobannium of Ptolomy. It was formerly walled, and had a very strong castle, which, Gyraldus observes, was disgraced by *treachery and treason* oftener than any other fortress in Wales. The town is large, populous and well built, has a good market-place, with a well supplied market, two parish churches, several good inns, and may, if we may be allowed to consider Monmouthshire as a part of Wales, be considered as the first town in this part of the principality. The country round is highly varied and fertile, and the rising ground on the banks of the Uske, with the different hills surrounding it in every direction, render the environs of Abergavenny most peculiarly inviting for the residence of independent families, many of whom have elegant villas in its vicinity. The town is becoming of still more importance, by a navigable canal projected, but not quite completed, from Brecknock to Newport, and especially from the iron mines lately discovered in its neighbourhood. At Llaneckly, a furnace and forges have been erected; but the principal works are amidst the hills, at Ble-navon, the property of Messrs. Hopkins and Hill: Here are three furnaces and other works, and several hundred hands employed; but they at present labour under the forbidding difficulty of carrying the iron when manufactured on horses backs round the hills to Pontipool railway, and thence it is conveyed to the *navigable part of the canal*.

Where the road strikes off to Uske is a neat man-

sion, belonging to Mr. Jones, called Clytha, and on the opposite side, on an eminence, is a building in a castellated form, erected as a monument of domestic affection to the memory of a woman of uncommon excellence, the heiress of the house of Tredeguar, who, with her hand, bestowed on the present proprietor a very splendid fortune. This modern imitation of the ancient, in a country abounding with so many venerable remains of antiquity, give us but an indifferent opinion of the taste of the projector; but the consideration from what motives the building was erected, while it suggested the idea of magnificence, precluded criticism; for *tributes of the heart* scarcely admit of discussion, and expressions of affection ought to be liberally received. They lay hold on our sensibility, and engross our imagination. On entering this expensive testimony of regard, and surveying the appropriated apartments, the echo of every unfortunate and affectionate bosom must be, "*And I also have had my friend!*" Such impressions are extremely interesting, and calculated to affect the human mind with the most useful morality.

We now hastened our steps * to survey the ruins of Ragland Castle. Leland styles it a fair and pleasant castle, eight miles from Chepstow, and seven from Abergavenny, in the *middle Vence Land*, having adjoining two goodly parks. Camden calls it a fair house of the Earl of Worcester's, built castleway, and assigns the date of its erection in the time of Henry VII.; but upon what authority he does not say. Collins informs us, in the Pedigree of

* Making an excursion into the forest of Wentwood we added to our list numerous habitats. Among others, *empetrum nigrum*, *rubus cœsius*, *vaccinium*, *vitis-idæa*, *vitis myrtillus*, *erica tetralix*, *erica didyma*, *erica cinerea*, and *andromeda debæcia*.

Herbert, that Sir John Morley, Knt. Lord of Ragland Castle, resided here in the reign of *Richard II.* consequently between the years 1377 and 1399. In a manuscript belonging to Mr. Jones, it is said to have been built by *Sir William Thomas*, and his son, William Earl of Pembroke, who was beheaded at Banbury. Sir William Thomas lived in the reign of King Henry V. (1413), and was present with the king, in company with *Sir David Gam*, at the ever memorable battle of Agincourt, where he lost his life.

What corroborates this opinion is, that a few years ago a labourer, employed to remove some rubbish in the fold yard of the adjoining farm, found a pot of money consisting of English silver coins, and among others, *a half groat of King Edward IV.*

It came into the noble family of Worcester, where it still remains, by Sir Charles Somerset marrying the grand-daughter of the said William Earl of Pembroke, heiress to his son William Earl of Huntingdon, and heiress general to *all the Herberts in England*. Sir Charles was the first Earl of Somerset of this line. It is situated on a moderately rising hill, called *Twyn y Ciro*s, or the *Cherry Hill*, surrounded by a rich and well cultivated country, and, when in its splendour, was reckoned one of the finest buildings in Britain.

A mile from the village we entered the castle farm, through which you enter by gates, erected by Mr. Evans, into the first, or eastern court of the castle; the first gate and steps have been destroyed, but part of the second is still standing: This front is very grand, including in the view the towers which defended the principal entrance, and the broken angle of *Melyn y Gwent* or the citadel. It was of hexangular form, each side thirty-three feet broad; its

walls ten feet thick, well built of hewn stone; its height five stories, and commanded a delightful prospect over the distant country. Its battlements being weak, were soon demolished during the siege, but the tower itself, though it sustained the shock of sixty shot (18 and 20 lbs. weight), per day, received no injury. This is ascended by a geometrical stone staircase, consisting of ninety steps, so curiously put together as to be ascended with the utmost ease and convenience. It was encompassed with a moat * which is at present dry and overgrown with brambles and briars. The niches, in which were placed figures of Roman emperors, still remain, though time and the weather have in a great measure destroyed the shell-work with which they were ornamented. Within the castle gate was the pitched stone court, on the right side of which was the closet tower, now overspread with turf, alders, and ashlings, growing in the wildest luxuriance. In this court was a deep draw-well, the water of which was brought from a spring two miles above Ragland; it is now covered over or filled up. Near the Kitchen Tower, as you enter from the principal gate, the main wall is nearly levelled with the ground, which appears to have been effected by cannon shot. To the north of it there is the trace of a sunk battery, from which it is said the breach was made, that occasioned the surrender of the castle. Beneath are the kitchen, larder, and a va-

* Fireside travellers have represented the castle as being surrounded with a deep moat, which only went round the southern front, and as having a river running by it; whereas, except an inconsiderable stream which supplied the fish-ponds, there is no river nearer than the Uske, or Wye, each of which are several miles distant.

riety of culinary offices, cellars, &c. all with arched roofs. The villagers speak of immense ovens, and fire places for roasting *oxen whole*, and indeed such is their extent, that this might easily be done. Passing parlours, dining and drawing rooms, you come to the music gallery, one hundred and twenty-six feet long ; and, leaving the chapel on the left, you enter the stately hall, sixty-six feet long, and twenty-eight broad, having a curious geometrical roof of Irish oak, with a dome at top for the admission of light. It has three large windows at the upper end ; but the large bow window on the left side of the court is a most beautiful object. The form is a half hexagon sixteen feet high, and the same wide, with proportionate well executed montons and transoms. The cupola above is crowned with ivy, which, hanging down with graceful negligence, forms a fine curtain of Nature's drapery. At the east end, in the centre of the hall, is an achievement of the Earl of Worcester, in stone work, but considerably defaced. The arms are surrounded with the legend of the Order of the Garter, and underneath the Earl's motto "*Mutare vel timere sperne.*" The supporters have been removed, to accommodate the sport to which this room is appropriated—*the game of fives* : How mutable is Fortune ! The room in which the sovereign of the land, and the most distinguished nobility were so often entertained, is now become a *fives court* ! !

In surveying this magnificent apartment, we became absorbed in reflection, the mind soon became in unison with the place, and my imagination stretched away to the period of its grandeur, when I seemed to see the mighty Baron feasting merrily with his knights and squires at the upper end of the

hall, while the lower departments were filled with his tenants and vassals, and turning mine ear to the gallery, I seemed to hear the music strike up, and making the roofs re-echo through the long-drawn passages and vaulted rooms. Indeed, it is impossible to detach such ideas from our recollection at the sight of such remains; and insensible must that mind be, and deaf to the fascinating descriptions of ancient splendour, that could remain upon this spot for a few moments without experiencing more than usual veneration, and yielding up every feeling to the powerful influence of fallen grandeur.

Passing straight from the hall, you enter what is termed the *large court*, one hundred feet long and sixty broad, remarkable for the curious fret-work of its walls and windows, but especially for a *marble fountain* constantly running with clear water, called the *white horse*. The horse is destroyed, but the capital of the pedestal on which the horse was placed, was tolerably perfect about fifty years ago; but it was nearly demolished by knocking off pieces to give persons coming to see the castle. The fragments were black stones, which, on being rubbed or broken, emitted a strong sulphureous smell, thence called *stinking* stones. They were supposed to be a composition; but on examining some parts that are left, in the custody of *M^r Daniel*, we found that it was a species of lime-stone, approximating nearly to what is termed *basalte*. It is highly probable that the horse was of the same substance with the pedestal; it must appear therefore paradoxical to call it a *white horse*. Dr. Griffin observes that some years ago a part of the body of a *black horse* was shewn standing in some water that supplied the castle.

The tradition also was, that the parliamentarians learned the source and poisoned the water, and the stone horse absorbing the poison, was turned by this means in colour from *white to black*. Being struck, it emitted an offensive smell.

What is called the bowling green, now an orchard, was turned into a bastion prior to the siege, as plainly appears by the remains of the parapet wall. In the front is another bastion, at the south east corner of the terrace, formed to flank the other. Before the principal gate, to cover it, was erected a large horn-work. The great tower, after a tedious battering, was undermined, and propped with timber, which being burnt, it fell down in the position we at present see it. Above thirty vaults, and three arched bridges, besides the *tower bridge*, are yet standing; but the most curious arch of the chapel, with many other elegant roofs and handsome rooms are destroyed.

The iron hand of the rebels did much, but more was done out of a mistaken economy during the lifetime of the late Duke: for one mason observed that he had, by orders of his grace's agent, taken down twenty-three stair-cases, beside chimney pieces, window frames, &c.

At this time, the castle was considered as a perennial source for supplying whatever materials were wanted for repairs on his estates. But when the present Duke came into possession, the weapons of dilapidation were arrested from the hands of the spoiler, and, to prevent any future demolition, the avenues were blocked up, and strict orders given that on no pretence should a stone be in future removed. Thus we trust it will long continue, not only an interesting object of curiosity, *but as a proud memorial of the*

distinguished and never to be forgotten duty and loyalty of the most noble family of Somerset.

In this noble mansion, previous to that demoniacal spirit of rebellion which spread the flames of civil war over this truly unhappy country, lived in dignified hospitality Henry Somerset, Marquis and Earl of Worcester; friendship and freedom reigned at his board, and *charity* took her station at his gate. The ancient style of living was preserved, and those hours of refreshment which fashion has now unreasonably reversed, were regularly and strictly observed. Indeed, the mode of living at Ragland would form an appropriate supplement to the household book of the Duke of Northumberland. In the midst of this otium cum dignitate, the Rebellion broke out, when the Marquis, with a loyalty and liberality, if equalled, never surpassed, fortified, and garrisoned for the King *his castle of Ragland*, at his own expense; encouraging, both by precept and example, the inhabitants of South Wales (of which he was governor) to stand up in defence of the just rights of their lawful sovereign. Here, after his Majesty left Oxford, he often found a secure and pleasant retreat; in the Earl, a guide, philosopher, and friend, to whom had he attentively and affectionately listened, even at that period of his affairs, he would have most probably saved his life and crown. When the King returned from Abergavenny, and told the Marquis that on the tears and professions of some arch traitors he had forgiven them, he observed, "Well, Sir, you may chance to gain you the kingdom of heaven by such doings as these; but if ever you get the kingdom of England by such ways, I will be your bondman."

Indeed in such a princely style were the King and

his attendants treated by the Marquis, that Henry Bard, Lord Bellamont, one day coming in, and seeing in the hall so many tables furnished with food, and so many feeders, swore that his Majesty had laid a plot to destroy that family : first, in borrowing all the old man's money, and then in coming thus to eat up his victuals ; which his Majesty hearing, smiled at. But the Marquis asked the man who related it to him, of what garrison the Lord Bellamont was governor ? The answer was, of Camden House. The Marquis replied, that when his Majesty had done as his lordship had said, that the King might go to *his* garrison, and there *have Camden's Remains*. It was after the battle of Naseby that Charles I. took up his residence here ; one day, taking occasion to thank the Marquis for the loan of some money, the Marquis replied, " Sir, I had your word for the money, but I never thought I should have been so soon repaid ; for now you have given me thanks, *I have all I looked for.*" During his Majesty's stay, every thing was done to amuse and divert his attention from the declining state of his affairs, which at times produced in his mind much melancholy. The most delicious dainties, the most enchanting music, the jeu d'esprit of wit and genius were combined to entertain the King. Among many instances of the Marquis's affectionate attention to the comfort of his royal guest, the following is a striking one : Sir Thomas Somerset, brother to the Marquis, had a house called Troy, five miles from Ragland. Being a complete gentleman, he delighted in fine gardens and rich orchards, where, by the aid of art, the most delicious fruits were reared. While Charles I. was visiting at his brother's house, it afforded him the means of sending

His brother such a present, as to induce the King to believe, the season of the year considered, that the poles of the earth must be changed, and that Wales, looked upon as the refuse and outcast of the fair garden of England, had now superior fruit to England itself. This present made to the Marquis, he would not suffer to be presented to the King by any hand but his own. At the end of the supper, in comes the Marquis led by the arm, with a slow and solemn pace, expressing the gravity of a Spaniard, with a silver dish in each hand, filled with rarities, and a little basket on his arm, as a reserve. After making his obeisance, he spake thus, "May it please your Majesty, if the four elements could have been robbed to have entertained your Majesty, I think I had but done my duty; but I must do as I may: if I had sent to Bristol for some good things to entertain your Majesty, that would have been no wonder at all: if I had procured from London some good things that might have been acceptable to your Majesty, that would have been no wonder—But here, (placing the dishes of fruit upon the table) I present you, Sir, that which came not from Lincoln, that was, nor London that is, nor York that is to be, but from *Troy*." Whereupon the King smiling, answered, "Truly my Lord, I have heard of corn growing where *Troy town stood*, but I never thought there had grown apricots and peaches before." To which the Marquis replied, "*Any thing to please your Majesty*." After the Marquis had left the King's presence, a gentleman observed to his Lordship, that he thought he would make a very good courtier. "Yes, I remember well that I said one thing that may give

you some hopes of me, "*any thing to please your Majesty.*"

After the surrender of Bristol, and the impolitic step of the King in giving up his person to the *Scottish army*, the rebels lost no time by stratagem and force to reduce the royal garrisons. Ragland was besieged by Col. Morgan at the head of three thousand men ; on summoning the garrison to surrender, he received this gallant reply, "I make choice of it, so please God, rather to die nobly than to live with infamy : which answer, if it be not pleasing to you, I shall not think you worthy to be styled by me your loving friend and servant, R. Worcester, June 28, 1646." Soon after, Sir Thomas Fairfax came at the head of a considerable reinforcement to accelerate the surrender of the castle. The Parliamentary General encamped in *Leaguer Fields*, now a part of Mr. Daniel's and Mr. Jefferies' farms, occupying a ridge of land then in the park, about half a mile to the east of the castle. Here numerous musquet balls have been found in ploughing. Letters between General Fairfax and the Marquis passed continually for the space of near two months, while the garrison nobly held out, and the besiegers went on with their approaches towards the castle ; their main works had now reached within sixty yards of the walls, consisting of batteries planted with cannon and mortars. Captain Hooper had so far succeeded as to throw up approaches of a hundred yards in extent, making running trenches within musquet shot. The Marquis now despairing of relief, and finding the King was a prisoner, and that most of the royal garrisons had surrendered, began to think how he should best provide for himself, his

family, and brave garrison. After a variety of parleys, he made a judicious capitulation : agreeing to surrender up the castle on six articles, equally honourable to the grantor and grantee. On August 19th, 1646, the garrison marched out with all the honours of war : horses, arms, colours flying, drums beating, trumpets sounding, matches lighted at both ends, bullets in their mouths, and every soldier with twelve charges of powder, match, and bullet, proportionable bag and baggage, with liberty to go to any place within ten miles, which the Governor should nominate. While the spirit with which so weak a place was so long defended does honour to the Marquis, the urbanity, with which the negotiation for its surrender was conducted, reflects the highest credit on the humanity both of the General and the Governor ; conduct which, if imitated, would tend to lessen the horrors of sieges, without derogating from the courage or duty of the contending parties. Under the capitulation there marched out the *venerable Governor, then above four score years of age*, Lord Charles Somerset, the sixth son of the Marquis, his daughter, the Countess of Glamorgan, Sir Philip and Lady Jones, of Tre'-Owen, Dr. Bailey, and Commissary Gwillim ; together with four Colonels, eighty-two Captains, sixteen Lieutenants, six Cornets, four Ensigns, four Quartermasters, fifty-two Esquires and Gentlemen, with about seven hundred common men. (Vid. Rushworth, in whose collection the correspondence during the siege is preserved at length.) The officers and men, after engaging not to serve in any way against the Parliament, of course mixed with general society : but the venerable Marquis had held

too distinguished a situation to pass unnoticed, and had been too decidedly loyal to expect from men who had fled in the face of the first and most imperious duty, any performance of their professions of protection. Under a false pretext that he had violated the articles of capitulation, they committed him to the custody of the Black Rod. The treatment he received after he had surrendered his person and property to the Parliament, seems to have made a stronger impression on his mind, and more affected his spirits than all the circumstances besides that attended his sad reverse of fortune. His hard fate he pathetically laments in one of his apophthegms. A few hours before he died, reflecting upon the articles that he had waved upon the surrender of the castle, " Ah! Dr. Bailey, (said he,) if I had made use of the articles which you had procured in my behalf, I had not now been so near the end of my life and the beginning of my happiness. I forsook life, liberty, and estate, which I might have had, and threw myself upon their mercy; which, when I had done, if to seize upon all my goods, to pull down my house, to sell my estate, and to send up for such a weak body as mine was, so enfeebled by diseases, in the dead of winter, and in the winter of my age, be *merciful*,—*what are they whose mercies are so cruel?* Neither do I expect that they should stop at all this, for I fear they will persecute me after death. You tell me that when I am dead, you will petition parliament for money to bury me, then will they appoint those who will dispose of the time and manner of my burial; and you shall see (being it is so near the good time) that they will cause me to be buried according to the directory, in sight of Christ-

was Day, upon Christmas." And, as though he had been endowed with a prophetic spirit, they actually did so.

In contemplating these ruins, and the extraordinary events connected with them, the mind takes a sombre cast, looks on the present and reflects on the past; contrasts the magnificence of the building with the present ruins, and the greatness of its former proprietors with the hapless fate of its last most noble occupant. The stupendous towers in ruins; the walls lying in mouldering heaps; the clinging ivy preserving some of its ornaments from falling; the extensive fish ponds turned into meadows; and the parks, once abounding with herds of red and fallow deer, now dispersed and converted into different farms, furnish strong ideas of the vanity and transitory nature of all earthly state and greatness: and to see the possessor, after living for years surrounded by wealth, and in the very zenith of power, suddenly dragged from his seat, his property confiscated, himself imprisoned, and, when dead, obliged to the hand of charity to bury him, can it but remind us, in language the most forcible, of the instability of all beneath the sun?

Whether we view this nobleman as the hero or the Christian, his character demands the highest respect and veneration. Though so hardly pressed in a castle not calculated for much defence, he defended it to the last extremity, till there was no provender for the horses, and the powder was reduced to the last barrel; and then obtained terms which are seldom granted but when the besiegers fear the length and difficulty of the siege. Though he possessed in a very ample degree the confidence and

friendship of his Majesty, and treated the King while at Ragland with all possible respect, yet he never forgot the duty he owed to the dignity of his own mind, by sacrificing his opinions at the expense of truth. His wisdom and experience he oftentimes communicated to his Majesty ; who, though he received them with admirable temper, as knowing they proceeded from the most disinterested regard for his person and welfare, yet profited but little by the instruction. Without judgment himself, and too unstable to adopt the judgment of others, he fell a sacrifice to wavering imbecility. If we view the Marquis in the trying hour of adversity, the page of history does not present a character from whose conduct a more striking example of Christian fortitude can be drawn, or a more useful lesson learned of humility and resignation. He is gone ; but, though dead, yet speaketh. He has, besides his philosophical works, left us a book of apophthegms, as a guide for our conduct through life, which in point of solid piety, sentiments laying the foundation of earthly happiness, and inculcating a perfect conformity to the divine will in the station his providence has assigned us, are not inferior to the celebrated precepts of the Lord Treasurer Burleigh.

Thus, my friend, have I led you through a varied country, highly interesting for its multifarious productions, and still more so from its intimate connection with the page of history ; a theatre, on which have figured the greatest characters, the best and the worst that have ever adorned or disgraced mankind ; where independence struggled for ages with violence and oppression, and liberty bid defiance to the vassals of despotism ; where religion in her na-

tive purity first established her seat, and exerted her benign influence : afterwards became obscured and disgraced by the follies of superstition, and regaining her primitive lustre, became again debased and corrupted by the reveries of enthusiasm. I doubt not but you have received pleasure, if not instruction, from traversing such varied scenery. Respecting myself, I can say I have not only experienced delight, but, I trust, learnt a number of useful lessons, both of gratitude and morality. Passing the ruins of Strygil Castle,* about half-way between Ragland and Chepstow, we bade adieu to the Principality, by crossing the Severn at Beachly Ferry. Grateful for the pleasures we had received, and the hospitality we had experienced, I most cordially exclaimed :

“ Fair scenes, ye lend a pleasure long unknown
To him who passes weary on his way.
The farewell tear, which now he turns to pay,
Shall thank you ; and whene’er of pleasures flown
His heart some long-lost image would renew,
Delightful haunts ! he will remember YOU.” *Bowles.*

I remain ever Yours, J. E.

* This, by some writers, has been confounded with Chepstow, and by others with Caldecot. The few walls left are upon a rising ground in the forest of Wentwood, commanding the ancient road from Chepstow to South Wales. According to Domesday Book it was built by William Fitz Osborne, Earl of Hereford ; but according to Hanmer’s Irish Chronicle, by Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Ogie. It is called Castell Glyn Istrigul, near the river of that name, which falls a little below into the Uske, between Bryn Byga and Caerleon. It was the property of the Clares, who took the title of Earls Strigil and Chepstow and Lords of Ogie.

LETTER XV.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

DEAR SIR,

IN traversing Wales, the first thing that strikes the observing traveller is the inequality of the surface, the constant recurrence of elevation and depression, mountains and vallies, and the varied contour these form from their parallelism or obliquity. The direction of mountains, or the bearing they assume in their extension, is a subject that, till lately, puzzled the wisest geologists. The learned Kirwan has however happily proved, that they are not *fortuitous* in the bearing they take, but range from north to south, east to west, or in a line inclining to one of these; which he satisfactorily accounts for, on the existence of two currents opposing each other at right angles, the one from east to west, the other from north to south: the former the course of the tides, and the latter the waters tending towards the vast abyss, formed in the vicinity of the south (and perhaps of the north) pole. These currents he supposes existed in the chaotic and diluvian seas; and from the antediluvian mountains then formed, another phenomenon arose at the deluge, still observable through the habitable globe: i. e. "*The uniform escarpment, or inequality of declivity, which sides of mountains exhibit, according to the bearing of their aspect on the different points of the compass.*" For these must have opposed, during the decline of the flood, a considerable obstacle to the motion of

such a fluid as water. The motion of the fluid being diminished, would be disposed to deposit its contents on that flank where the opposition occurred, on the eastern side of the bearing from north to south, and on the northern side of that from east to west.

The observations of travellers lead to these two positions, and the table land in England, Scotland, and Wales corroborates the same.

If you extend your view from the most northerly of the Schetland Isles to the Grampian Hills ; from them to the Peak ; from the Peak to the Ridgeway in Warwickshire ; from that over the Cotswold Hills to Marlborough Downs ; and thence over Salisbury Plain, till it terminate in the abrupt cliffs on the coast of Hants, the first position will be confirmed ; and the second, not only from the appearance of a more easy declination on the *eastern* side, but the fact that the principal rivers take an easterly direction to the sea. The Spey, Tay, Tyne, Trent, and Thames run in an easterly course. The rivers on the western side are short in their course, principally the Mersey and the Dee ; and the Severn may be considered as an exception to the rule, running from N. W. to S. E. The mountains of Wales generally range from north east to south west, and they also elucidate the doctrine of regular direction, and almost uniform escarpment.

There are three principal ridges, and each observes the same directions. The first is the Snowdon Chain, commencing at Penmaen bach, near Conway, and terminating in the abrupt cliffs of Haerlech. The second is the Cader Chain, taking its rise in the Ferwyn mountains, which bound the

vale of Tanad, and terminating near Towyn. The third may be considered as commencing at the Gaer, near Brecknock, and terminating in the Percelly, near Fishguard. The escarpment, or most abrupt declivity of all these, is on the north-western side, and their declivities on the south-eastern side. Particular hills have anomalous escarpments, arising from earthquakes, debris, or elapsion of strata, disintegration from accumulating enclosed waters, called *dwrw doer*, and other causes. These, as they form different angles, have different escarpments; but the most accessible side is generally towards the *south*.

The secondary, or Flotz Mountains, as they are termed, accompany both escarpment and declivity, but chiefly the south western or declining side. These verify a remark of Saussure, (*Voyages dans les Alpes*), that in the more extensive chains of mountains the exterior ridges are of lime, the next schistose rocks, the next what are termed primitive stratified rocks; and the primitive unstratified rocks, consisting of the granites and granitels, occupy the highest station.

These are distinguishable by the peculiarity of their form, as well as by their relative position. The granite mountains are steep, the escarpment forming a less acute angle with the plane of the horizon, and generally terminating in craggy summits bare of verdure.

The schistose rocks are less steep, inferior in height, and the most elevated parts form a waving outline, depressed often in the centre, and rising towards each extreme.

The lime and sandstone hills fall subordinate to

the slate. The first generally rise gradually at one extremity, and terminate abruptly at the other; this form they assume when in compact limestone, but when they are changing into shale, they generally assume the schistose form. The sand hills are rounder and broader than the lime; but as they intermix with calcareous earth, in what is termed *brash*, they more resemble the limestone hills.

The superior or primitive unstratified mountains principally consist of granite, gneiss, whinstone, and various porphyries, so valued by the ancients for obelisks, columns, statues, &c.

The primitive stratified rocks consist of granite, mica, feldspar, schistose porphyry, serpentine in large blocks, micaceous schistus interspersed by veins of quartz, hornblende slate, &c.

The slate, or first stotz, are formed of micaceous schistus, schistus, shale, and schistose clay.

The lime strata abound with a variety of marbles, flags, and other paving stone, till its nature is changed by passing into calcareous silex and freestone.

The origin of mountains and the various appearances of the globe, have formed a theme of contention amongst both ancient and modern philosophers. Contending theorists have successively demolished each other's superstructure, and every system, which has been opposite to that of the divine philosopher, has soon evinced the instability of its foundation. The appearances both of this varied country, as well as North Wales, correspond with those in most parts of the earth to favour the Neptunian rather than the Volcanic system.

That this earth was once under water, and that

subsequent to the existence of an animal creation, is evident from the most indubitable facts, still visible both above and beneath the surface. The primitive rocks only being disrupted, and in part dissolved, still exhibit signs of their primæval origin; while on the secondary mountains and hills, and in the strata of the plain and more humble vale, as evidently appear the subsidencies of dissolved matter.

Of this universal submersion, and consequent subsidency, in addition to a variety of proofs adduced, is the *equal allotment of declivities* towards the two cardinal points, and the nature of the depositions: those in the primary stratified mountains consisting of the Pelasgi, or such animals as live only in very *deep*, and those in the secondary mountains, hills, &c. such as are known to occupy *shallow waters*: and these are found also in the kinds of earth most soluble in water.

If we ascend the highest mountains, we shall there discover not only large blocks of stone, but heaps of rounded pebbles, sands, &c. lying in all directions; these too consisting of heterogeneous substances to those composing the mountains on which they lie. The pebbles are of all sizes, rounded exactly like those we find on the sea-shore; fewer and larger as we approach the superior elevations, and smaller and more numerous as we descend lower down; agreeable to what, in the case of violently agitated subsiding waters, must be expected to take place: as the longer they were suspended, and the further they were carried, the greater would be the effects produced by comminution and attrition.

If we attend to the secondary mountains, and the various strata there, we shall find imbedded both plants and animals; and, in many cases, not only their form, but their substance preserved; entire plants, ferns, &c. fragments of wood, &c. in the *schistose* strata, have at times been discovered. That they are not so frequent might be accounted for from the foregoing observation; for on the retiring of the waters, the inhabitants of the ocean, if living, would naturally retreat with the waters; and if dead, their remains, as light bodies, would consequently be carried to the greater distance, and take the exterior station, as observation proves they do. Nay, upon the general law of attraction (of cohesion), or rather chymical affinity, would not homogeneous bodies in many instances apply themselves to each other? Where, therefore, should we expect to find the exuviae of marine animals, and the skeletons, and bones of others, composed as they are of calcareous matter; but where they are found in abundance, imbedded in almost every species of calcareous strata? *Abundance* sufficient to convince us, that nothing short of an animated world destroyed, and for the most part, if not *wholly dissolved*, could have left such irrefragable signs of previous and extensive animation.

The very existence of lime has been adduced by some as a positive proof of submersion; deducing the origin of all calcareous matter from animalization. There does not, however, appear sufficient evidence for such a conclusion; if it did not militate against the prerogative of the Creator, in giving too much to created beings as the creators of new matter. When Dr. Hutton asserts, in his Theory of the

Earth, that the globe is composed of near one fourth part calcareous substance, startled at the singular position, we ask for proof? As far as we have been able to collect, the most accurate and extensive observation flatly gives it a contradiction. Equally unfounded, and still more absurd, is the making testaceous animals creators of such a prodigious quantity of matter. The reverse may be more safely asserted, because abundantly proved; that the *calcareous matter served for their formation*. As well might we suppose, because we frequently find numbers of snails and shells in the neighbourhood of old walls, composed of limestone and mortar, that these were formed by the humble reptile: Or, to be more agreeable to the dignity of the subject, that the towering cliffs on the south coast of Wales originated from the diminutive crab that crawls beneath them!

It is evident that these animals found the calcareous matter which their exuviae contain, in the antediluvian seas: as we now discover it, though in a suspended state, in the ocean;* and in a mixed state on land, which these testaceous tribes collect, and organize, by a wonderful instinct, into those portable habitations we call shells. The recent discoveries of the extensive rocks of coral, and coralline are a most convincing illustration.

These abundant tokens of the present world having been submerged, have been attempted to be accounted for in a variety of ways, all of which may be referred to the agency of fire, or of water.

* That quantities of calcareous matter exist in a suspended or fluid state in the ocean, is apparent to the senses from the quantity separated in the process of manufacturing sea salt.

The Theory of Buffon, which has been modified by Hutton; supposes that mountains, islands, &c. have been formed by the expansive force of subterraneous fires, assisted from above by an enormous incredible force of compression; and the illustration is taken from solitary facts, such as the existence of lava, and other volcanic productions, thinly scattered over the surface of the earth, and the appearance of a new island called Lipari. But both the inclination and nature of the strata oppose to such a theory the most formidable objections. The strata would, under the idea of elevation from expansive fires, have been lifted in all directions, forming endless angles with each other, and never assuming any thing like uniformity of bearing or inclination. Whereas the reverse is the fact. Much less should we, as we do, frequently meet with extensive strata in the plane of the horizon. Besides, if such a heat once generally existed, the marine exuviae would have been amorphous, reduced to lime; the soft argillaceous strata would have been indurated; those of *petunse*, or quartz, semi-vitrified; the coal an alkali; and the lime a calx. The extreme scarcity of volcanic productions renders it highly improbable, and if they had been sufficiently numerous to effect the work, the earth, instead of what it is, would have been one grand *slag*; stratum super stratum, as we at present discover in the vicinity of Vesuvius and *Ætna*. And further, on this hypothesis it is necessary to call in an *incredible imaginary power into existence, to produce effects, which the operation of visible and allowed causes, daily experience shews, is inadequate to accomplish*. How much more natural and easy the Mosaic account therefore, that the windows of hea-

ven were opened, the fountains of the great deep broken up; and by a suspension of the general laws of nature, whether of levity, and gravity, or repulsion and compression, the waters covered the whole earth; and by the appointment of the same laws they again resumed their wonted limits.

It is too common, I know, to prefer the speculations of philosophers * to the testimony of the scriptures; and the reveries of such men as Buffon and Hutton to the writings of Moses. But it should be remembered, that Buffon was the pliant disciple of Voltaire, a professed atheist; that Hutton laboured to demonstrate the eternity of the world; and the Hebrew legislator was influenced by Divine Inspiration.

It is no subject of wonder to the Christian, that the pride and arrogance so natural to man should affect the closet self-sufficient philosopher, and induce him to propagate his impious speculations, which not only tend to dishonour God, and annihilate a belief in his existence, but to dissolve the bonds of social order, and thus rob us of the sweetest endearments of hu-

* These vain and ridiculous attempts to undermine the truth of Revelation, bring to my recollection a reverie of the great astronomer Dr. Halley. After puzzling himself to no useful purpose about the variations of the needle, and drawing up tables of the *variations of the variations*, he turned his attention to devise a Theory of the Earth. Having assumed the untenable principle, that the sea owes its saltness to the saline matter washed down by rains, and conveyed by rivers, &c. he then labours to prove, that as the sea loses its waters by evaporation, it must gradually become salter. And then concludes, if the increment for any given time could be ascertained, it would give a theorem for the age of the world, which he supposes *much older than the Mosaic account.*

man society ! Nay, after endeavouring to deprive us of our birth-right, the parental protection of the Deity, the unspeakable love of his incarnate Son, the assistance and comfort of the Holy Spirit, and the hope of our inestimable inheritance, What do they offer us in return for such concession ? Nothing. You must not wonder, therefore, if I turn, not only with disgust, but with horror, from such philosophers, who, though palpably convicted of inability, are ever labouring to enlist our reason under the banners of scepticism ; though continually beaten, yet are as constantly rallying, and with their old objections often refuted, and new vamped, again attacking the impregnable fortress of truth.* And finding, as I do, the appearances of nature correspond with the sacred narrative, I leave such vain and groundless reveries, and remain an adherent to the divine philosophy. To act otherwise, would be to place my high regard for Evidence at stake, involve in uncertainty my brightest views, and drown my inestimable hope in the dark abyss of despair.

With pleasure I turn to a subject which, while it strikingly evinces the providential goodness of God, loudly calls for the industry, and gratitude of man.

Nearly the whole of these varied elevations abound with the most useful minerals. The primitive mountains in mass contain none hitherto discovered, but they often, in trapping into the stratified mountains,

* Vid. Woodward, Jones, Colcot, Whitehurst, Williams, De Luc, and Kirwan ; especially in his *Geological Essays*, and his learned observations on the proofs of the *Huttonian Theory*. (Memoirs R. I. A. V. viii.)

exhibit immense rocks of quartz, both the diaphanous as well as the opaque.—The former is doubtless the *petunse* of the Chinese, the desirable unknown ingredient in the composition of china, and which gives it the admired semi-transparency. And the latter might be advantageously substituted for chert and flint in the English potteries, as it is in those of France. Copper is found in the primitive stratified rocks, particularly whin and hornstone; as at Pont Aberglaslin, and Llanberris, Caernarvonshire; and in black and grey chert, and schistose hornblende, at Paris Mountain, Anglesea. Native copper has at times been found, but in small quantities. The ores of both are chiefly micaceous, or sulphats, or sulphurets of copper. And those of Caernarvon are superior to those of Anglesea; the former yielding from eight to ten per cent. of copper; and some of the latter so little, as only to be worked for the sulphur. They have, however, quantities of sulphat of copper in solution, which, being precipitated by iron, yields from forty to fifty per cent. and is known under the name of *ziment copper*.

The schistose rocks abound with ores of lead, cobalt, zinc, &c. Lead is generally found in a matrix of calcareous spar, as at Llangannoy, Montgomeryshire; and most of the mines in Cardigan, and Caermarthen. The ores are galæna, cubical and stellated, the latter of which contains a quantity of silver, and is, from its brilliant appearance, called *granulated steel ore*; the former diced, or potters' ore, because used in the glazing of various kinds of earthen ware. Of this valuable metal there are rich mines in the counties of Flint, Montgomery, and Caermarthen;

but the principal are in Cardiganshire. Indeed this county may be considered as one of the most extensive and richest mining fields in Britain.

Calamine has been found in schistose rocks, accompanied by quartz, at Llangunnog and Craigywn-wyn mines in Montgomeryshire; cobalt at Darran Vawr; and *blende*, an ore of zinc, called by the miners blind ore, abundantly in the other lead mines of Cardigan.

But the schistose rocks supply us with another mineral, superior in the cheap and elegant roofing it affords to that of lead. It is generally denominated *Cornish tile*; because originally procured from that county. But there are extensive slate hills, both in North and South Wales, which furnish slates equal in quality to those of Westmorland, or Cornwall. The principal quarries that have been opened are in Caernarvon, Cardigan, and Montgomery. (For an account of the manufacture at the principal quarries, Vid. Tour in North Wales.) In viewing these works, a geological fact will strike you, that corresponds with the doctrine of uniform though unequal declivity. The slates are always observed coarsest in their texture on the northern or north western sides of the ridges, and less so on the southern and south-eastern sides, growing finer as they approach the *Limestone hills*, in which we discover copper, lead, calamine, iron, coal, and marble. The copper is for the greater part carbonat of copper, or green and blue malachites; as those of Llandudno, near the Ormashead in Caernarvonshire; Llannymynech in Montgomeryshire; and specimens I discovered in 1801, near Mynydd Cyfer in Caermarthenshire.

The lead ores are laminated potters' ore, or fibrous

steeled ores, as those of Llanymynech, Holywell, and Talybont. The calamine accompanies the lead sometimes collaterally, but frequently overlaying it, as it is seen on Mendip hills, Somersetshire.

Iron, the most precious, because the most useful of the minerals, is by the bounty of Providence largely spread over the face of the earth; and no where in greater plenty than in those favoured British isles, which the great Linnè ingenuously styled, "*Punctum saliens in vitello orbis.*" It is so abundant in South Wales, that to describe where it has already been found, or evident marks of its existence, would be to give a topographical description of the country. Several species of ore are discovered, as blood stone, red hematites, kidney ore, or compact brown iron stone; grey ore, or black iron stone; bog ore, or swampy iron ore of Kirwan, with a variety of sulphurated and arsenicated ores under the denomination of pyrites. But the kidney, and grey ores are the most frequent; and hematites the least so. It is an obvious remark, that wherever iron is discoverable, coal is not far distant, either underlaying it, or in collateral strata. This eligible substitute for ligneous fuel is found in every county of the principality except Cardigan, Merioneth and Caernarvon; and time perhaps will discover that it is not wanting in these. So plentiful is it in the four southernmost counties, that it is only to sink in certain directions to find it: and the symptoms on the surface, and the method of trying, called *boring*, generally adopted, the adventurer need not be apprehensive about the ultimate success.

The coal sometimes underlays the limestone, or, as the workmen term it, has a limestone roof; but

most frequently it lies to the northern or southern side of a limestone ridge : and when two of these ridges inclose a vale, or tract of low land, it may certainly be inferred, that coal is there included. A fact that may lead to new discoveries and greater certainty on this subject, I shall briefly state, premising that at a future period I may furnish the public with fuller information. Through South Wales, two lines, nearly parallel, of calcareous matter run in an easterly direction from St. George's Channel across the whole of the country ; and they are accompanied the whole of the way by two similar lines of coal strata. Both these are not always visible together, but often where the coal *grasses*,* the limestone *dips*, and vice versa. Coals have been found at Talbery, at Johnston, Frestope, Picton, Jeffreston, and Begelley, Pembrokehire ; thence keeping on the southern side of the Limestone ridge to the beach ; it is observable at low water at the mouth of the Towy, forming part of the bar of that river ; thence passing through the upper part of Caermarthenshire, Brecknock, and Monmouth, and it crosses over the Severn to Kingswood collieries, near Bristol.

The other lies near the limestone, commencing near Williamston, passing Sandersfoot near Tenby, it there with the limestone takes the water ; then crossing the peninsula of Gower, it again dips in the bay of Swansea, appears near Kinfig, reaches Caerphilly ; then passing near Newport in Monmouthshire, it crosses the Severn sea, and takes the same direction through the upper part of Somersetshire, to the

* i. e. appears near the surface—*dip* also means to incline towards the centre of the earth.

south of Bristol, as far as Poulton and Radstock. In this bearing these veins, or rather lines, might be traced further; and, on the western side, through several of the more southerly counties of Ireland. This will form a clue to other lines of coal, &c. in the stratified mountains throughout the kingdom.

Various opinions have been espoused respecting the origin of this vegetable substance. Some have advanced, that it owes its origin to the combination of different earths with bituminous matter; and the quantity of petroleum contained in coal fields and the adjacent strata, favours such a conjecture. Others as strenuously contend for its *vegetable origin*, and have adduced as proofs, the fibrous texture of some coals, and the very grain of the wood with which each variety was composed. Indeed the vegetable origin of coal in a great degree cannot be doubted, unless we resist the plainest evidence; for the properties and products of both are analogous. Bituminous matter (tar) is obtainable from both, during combustion, according to their specific gravities, or nearly so; and alkaline salts with other heterogeneous earths result from both, when combustion has ceased. The quantity of vegetable matter thus converted into coal, the depth at which it is found, and the inclination of the strata, all point out the agency of water, and as it were, refer us to the antediluvian forests dissolved by the flood, and consolidated by other petrifying substances. It does not however follow but that much of the bituminous matter might, in the separation, have attached to earthy substances; and thus give a colouring to the other opinion. The slaty and *blind* coal are specimens in point: the one carbon destitute of bitumen; and the other, a portion

combined with stone. However these in conjunction are an additional argument for the Neptunian system.

In adverting to the subterraneous treasures, we are naturally led to the mode of their realization, and the æra of their discovery. The Britons, it is probable, owed much to their first invaders, the Romans; both with respect to the uses of minerals, and the working of mines. Copper appears to have been an object of pursuit to that intelligent people, as remains of smelting furnaces and cakes of this metal with Roman letters, and the imperial stamp, have been found in various places. Calamine, the cadmia of the ancients, must at that time have been known, because essential to the composition of brass and orichalcum, with which most of their instruments discovered in this isle appear to have been made.

Lead mines also were worked by that people, and silver extracted from the ore. Traces of which have been observed both in North and South Wales; especially in the counties of Flint and Cardigan.

Iron appears to have been known to our early ancestors, prior to the invasion of Julius Cæsar. Mines of this metal were opened, according to the Imperial author, and worked by the Belgæ (Vid. Comment. Jul. Cæs.). Some opened, others would soon be discovered; and a considerable manufacture of iron before the reign of Tiberius, was established in this island. (Vid. Strabo.) The iron money they passed proves that they were acquainted with the art of smelting, coining, &c. The trade was considerably furthered by the Romans, but they were not in possession of the art of extracting all the metal from the ore; as many beds of cinders in different parts of

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the country abundantly shew. Thousands of loads are to be seen in different parts of the forest of Dean, &c.; and attempts were lately made, with varied success, of resmelting these at the founderies of *Tintern and Llandogo*.

Coals, Mr. Pennant says, were known also before the arrival of the Romans; that the Britons had a name for them (*Glô*), which the latter had not; and as a proof he adduces a *flint axe*, the usual instrument of the Aborigines, found stuck in a vein of coal, at *Craig y Pare, Monmouthshire*.*

Of this early discovery of coal little can be said, because less is known; but it is well known that the smelters of ancient times made use of wood only in their operations, as appears from the reliques of their smelting hearths. Nor is it likely, when labour was confined to necessary wants, that had they known of this combustible substance, they would have dug for it, while they were so amply supplied with one on the surface by the extensive woods. Hume assigns the discovery to the thirteenth century, and with some reason, as history is silent respecting such a substance; and in the twelfth and thirteenth, public mention is made of it in the *Acta Regia* of England and Scotland, (*Vid. Arnot's Hist. Edinburg.*) If the discovery was not very remote, the progress of its introduction was very slow; even after wood became a scarce and dear

* Whether coals were known as a useful fuel to the Romans we have no authentic account, but it is certain they were known three centuries before the time of Julius Cæsar. (*Vid. Theophrastes. πρὸ λίθου κ γ*, in his description of what was afterwards called the *Tharxian stone*.)

article of fuel. The smoke* arising from mineral coal was deemed pernicious in the beginning of the sixteenth century, and it is less than two hundred years since it came into use in London. At that time two small vessels were sufficient for the coal trade, and now several thousand sail of shipping are insufficient; and the annual consumption of London alone amounts to upwards of 1000,000 of chaldrons!

It is stated by the early historians, that mineralogy and mining were objects of attention among the Saxons; and that they made use of *lead in sheets* for roofing most of their ecclesiastical or insignificant buildings. The roof of Landisfern church, built by Bishop Eadbert, A. D. 652, and York Minster, built by Wilfred, were both covered with lead, as we are informed by Bede. That mines were considered of some importance during the Norman, and the succeeding dynasty, or Saxon line restored, is evident from the various grants made to different persons, and laws enacted with regard to this species of property. In the reign of Edward I. a tenth of all profits arising from mines in Wales, was directed to be paid to the churches of the principality. But little could be expected in such times, when the narrow policy of Government threw every obstacle in the way of the adventurer, and every subsequent statute contained an additional discouragement.

* This fact shews that collieries were almost as early opened in Wales as in England: for it is reported that the Lord Chancellor Burleigh, in the reign of Elizabeth, used to have the coals for the use of his house by water from Pembrokeshire, because these in combustion emitted less smoke than those imported from the north.

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ment to mining speculations: for, besides the exaction of a ninth for the exchequer, and a tenth for the holy church, it does not appear that the owner of the ground, in case the mine was discovered in private property, was permitted to have *any share* in the profits, till the 5th of Henry VI. A. D. 1426!

Nor was the science of mineralogy or the art of mining likely to advance in an age when miracles were admissible in the arts, as well as divinity; and the *transmutation of metals* obtained the same implicit belief as the transubstantiation of the sacramental elements, and royal protections given to the transmuters. (Vid. Rymeri *Fœdera*, v. 6. 68 et passim.) These privileges however were viewed by the ecclesiastics of the time with a jealous eye, and the science of metaphysics was summoned to prove that the alchemists were under demoniacal influence, and that *chemistry and metallurgy were nothing short of diabolical arts*. To avoid the jealousy of superstition, therefore, when mercury was changed into silver and gold, the metal was said by the transmuters to be *transubstantiated*; and this manœuvre had the desired effect!

This most barefaced and impudent imposture was attempted to be revived during the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First; and had the clergy of that time been as well acquainted with other sciences as divinity, they need not have had recourse to the arm of authority for its suppression. It was most successfully exposed by Ben Jonson, in his admired comedy called the *Alchemist*.

From the departure of the Romans till the reign of Elizabeth, the mining importance declined; the knowledge of minerals was almost extinguished;

our weapons of warfare, swords, knives, stirrups, bits,* and other useful and ornamental articles down to pins, were imported by way of Holland from Germany. That Queen, however, laid the foundation for our present success in mining, and all the vast manufactures dependent on mineralogy, which give us such consequence in the markets of Europe: this was effected by prohibiting the importation of metallic articles, and giving due encouragement to foreign miners, smelters, and other artificers in metallic productions, (Vid. Stat. 5th. E. c. 7th.) It was at this period that the lead mines which had been worked by the Romans were re-opened, and new ones discovered; but, as we before observed, it was not till the reign of Charles I. that much of consequence was done. According to Schlutter, the lead mines of Flint were not worked till Dr. Wright and his associates established a foundery at Halken in 1698; and the copper mines of Paris mountain, though supposed to have been known to the Romans, were neglected till the public spirit of Nicolas Bailey brought them into notice.

If since that time the science of mineralogy has made a considerable progress, mining and metallurgy appear to have made little or none: a mining adventure being generally considered a sort of lottery in which much might be lost, and much might be won; and that chance, not certainty, is the arbitrator of the scheme. According to Pliny, the mode of detecting metallic veins was by shoding and drifting;* that they sunk shafts, drove levels

* Both these methods are still used; but much stress is laid upon the mysterious power of the *bacula divinatoria*, the nature

supporting the roof, where necessary; and when impeded by water, they were relieved by the use of pumps, (Pliny L. 23. C. 4.) It must however be granted that the use of gun-powder is superior to the *tractaria*, the fire, acids, and pick-axes of the Romans; and the invaluable invention of the steam engine for draining the works of water incomparably before the best of *their hydraulic collection*. Yet though this country is so prolific in mineral substances, yet, from the neglect of centuries, and the indolence, ignorance, and poverty of the present inhabitants, it may be said of its subterraneous treasures, "*Tertæ perduntur opes*;" and although the modern discoveries in chemistry have furnished us with much better means of separating the metal from the heterogeneous substances combined with it in the ore, both in the humid and empyreumatic way, diminishing labour and increasing the product, yet metallurgy seems to have made no advance. It is far from what it ought to be, *a science*. The artists, who made the first discoveries, were in possession of greater knowledge than those who tamely tread in their steps, without courage to advance a step further; and, however mortifying to our pride, some ages and some countries appear to have been superior to *our own*. But to both these the Welsh are almost entirely inattentive; and strangers, profiting by this inattention, bear away the prize. Englishmen work their mines, conduct their founderies, and only leave them the mortification to see that

and virtues of which are seriously detailed in Pryce's *Mineral Cornubeinsis*; and the most ingenious defence ever set up for such a ridiculous application of a hazel stick, in *Lettres sur La Minéralogie*, Paris 1751.

though their country is rich, the inhabitants are poor; and that genius and industry are equally requisite to the welfare of a country.

“ ————— Pudet hæc opprobria nobis

Et dici potuisse et non potuisse refelli.”

Of persons thus inattentive to the treasures so easily obtained, little must be expected: but it might be supposed, though inattentive to subterraneous wealth, yet they would be alive to the profitable objects upon the surface, because more obvious to the eye of sense.

I have before adverted to the state of agriculture, and pointed out the methods of husbandry, in what is considered the worst, and the best county in South Wales, Cardigan and Glamorgan. I have reluctantly stated the slovenly and unprofitable manner in which the labours of the field are generally conducted; and proudly pointed out some striking and honourable exceptions of better practice: but its extent is confined, and the instances few. The few remarks I shall here subjoin I hope will be taken as they are meant, as referring to the general husbandry of the country; and therefore all instances of a different and more successful method must be excepted.

The Welsh farmer stumbles on the very threshold. His mode of ploughing has neither respect to the soil, nor the crop he is going to sow. Though deep ploughing is in some soils injurious, yet shallow ploughing defeats its own end, that of rendering the earth fit for the reception of the seed, and the radication of the future plants. The furrow is seldom more than half turned, by which the growth of weeds is encouraged; and weeding in favour of

the artificial crop is never attempted. Indeed for want of destroying weeds, particularly annual ones, either by fallowing or intervening green crops, the superior class of farmers justify the remark, and their fields deserve the georgical censure, of the Mantuan bard :

“ Intereunt segetes, subit aspera sylva,
Lappæque tribulique, interque nitentia culta
Infelix lolium et steriles dominantur avenæ.”

Georg. i. 152.

The course of crops is violently outrageous in its demands on the pabula of the soil. Wheat is little raised, and other white crops succeed each other, till Nature, wearied with the burthen, refuses to bear it any longer; and tired with the numerous progeny she has unreasonably been obliged to support, evinces her inability to afford them any further sustenance, by starving the family. The land, otherwise good, thus reduced to the last stage of poverty, exhibits a dreary aspect of dwindling vegetation, as disgraceful to the cultivator as it is lamentable to the beholder.

After thus depriving the land of all its strength, the Welsh farmer takes no effectual steps to repair the loss, equally ignorant of the means, as of the derivable benefits. Rich manures are a scarce commodity, but attention to *sheep folding and the home stall* would soon supply the deficiency: till these two essential points are regarded, recourse must be had to the natural means of improvement which the surface or substratum of the earth affords. *Burn beaking*, from the alkali afforded in the combustion, for a time produces pleasing effects; but

alas! these are far from permanent, and without future help fertility is not to be expected.

Lime is most generally adopted, because most frequently found; the application of this, however, is without the least attention to the nature of the soil, or the quality of the stone. Though an excellent substance judiciously used, it is to many soils detrimental, unless in very small quantities, as a *stimulus* for furthering the decomposition of vegetable matter. Some limestone also contains a portion of magnesian earth, especially that near slate strata, which is proved to be highly injurious to vegetation. (Vid. Tennant Philos. Trans. 1799.)

Marl, the *marga* of the ancients, and so highly extolled by the Roman writers, and so successfully used by the English farmers, is sparingly adopted by the Welsh. This substance so beneficial in its effects both to arable and pasture, where the soil is calcareous, silicious, or even indurated schistose, abounds in many places, yet it is almost wholly neglected.

Peat lands, so frequent in Wales, are furnished by nature, ever provident for the supply of our wants, with abundance of alabaster or plaister-stone, which the American farmers have found a most effectual alterative for such loose and spongy soils.

The general want of upper as well as under *draining*, is too obvious to pass unnoticed. From this circumstance you will often see large tracts of fine level land only partially cultivated, being ploughed in larger or smaller strips, as the wetness or dryness of the land dictates to the plough: the residue, generally the larger portion, produces rushes, segs, and such sour grasses as thrive in water. At-

tention to this grand point of improvement would soon change the face of the country, and luxuriant verdure would succeed to dreary sterility.

If thus remiss in removing superfluous water *from off* the soil, it must not be expected they should be assiduous in bringing it on. Those grand conservatories of grass, *water meads*, so essential to a breeding as well as a feeding country, are little known, and less attended to; if they were, the numerous barren sleights would be turned into the richest pastures. Nature has in this country formed some, and pointed out more. Indeed so numerous are the springs amidst the hills, and the rivulets in the vales, that nothing is wanting but a little hydraulic information, supported by a little industry, to accomplish so desirable an object of general improvement. It is by the judicious use of water that the meadows in the vicinity of Parma and Lodi, in Italy, are rendered so luxuriant, that the cattle are said to give cream instead of milk, of which is made the Parmesan cheese, celebrated through the markets of Europe.

The prejudices against a rational course of husbandry are numerous and strong; nor is there a probability of their eradication, but by the introduction of a new race, or the reformation of the junior part of the present by a better education.

In this country thistles and saneworts are considered as signs of good land; and a multiplicity of weeds serviceable to the future ley. Loose stones are looked upon as beneficial to arable crops, and accordingly they are carefully preserved while the land is under grass, being laid up in small heaps to give room for the grass to grow; and again regu-

larly spread when the land is subjected to the plough. Wales is said to be so mountainous and rocky, that it is not calculated for corn; and so subject to rain and vapours, that wheat must on the average be planted with certain loss: and this unphilosophical idea we are sorry to see taken up by a respectable agriculturist, in his communications to the board of agriculture.

The first of these prejudices prevents the farmer from attempting the destruction of his worst enemy, lays him under the necessity of sowing a double quantity of seed, and leaves him the *satisfaction* to see more than half the crop stifled before it arrives at maturity, and the future herbage an ill-conditioned ley.

As to the second, how far land more than half covered with stones, and the surface beneath prevented the benefits of air and sun, can be equally or more productive than land wholly exposed to these vivifying influences, is a paradox I cannot solve: * perhaps stones thrown on a seed bed of onions would be a solution little favourable to such a theory.

The third is in a great measure unfounded: Wales abounds with plains, vales, and slopes accessible to the plough; and it is proved by experience that a rocky bottom is not a bar to vegetation,

* This practice has been defended by the trite observation, that long established customs are generally founded in reason: If this be not attempting to prove absurdum per absurdius, I know not what it is. It is surely rating modern discoveries very low indeed! Then long usage may be pleaded a sufficient sanction for any custom, and prescription as a demonstration of truth: thus yielding up the palm of wisdom to the ignorance of antiquity.

but often favourable to it, particularly to farinaceous crops; nay madder, hops, saffron, &c. that have been supposed to require *deep*, have been successfully tried on *shallow soils*; and experience teaches us that fruit trees, with the top roots cut off while young, flourish better in soils with an indurated substratum, their horizontal roots spreading more; and being nearer the surface, are consequently more subject to the two powerful causes of fructification, heat and moisture.

The fourth is taken up from the failure of wheat crops in some places, particularly in very wet seasons, without the support of a single experiment fairly made to ascertain the fact. I am sensible it will be urged that these failures* have occurred

* The failures alluded to have perhaps arisen from inattention to soil, aspect, and situation.

“Nor will she, scorning truth and taste, devote
To strange and alien soils her seedling stems;
Fix the dark fallow on the mountain's brow,
Or to the moss-grown margin of the lake
Bid the dry pine descend. From Nature's laws
She draws her own;—Nature and she are one.”

Mason.

Wheats rejoice in a stiff or close soil; barley, rye, and oats in earth of a looser texture; the roots of plants are perhaps the best guide, (Vid. Mem. R. I. A. v. 8.) How far aspect is concerned may be learnt from a variety of plants. In a southern one the myrtle, a green-house plant, bears our winters from 50° to 54° north latitude; and in the same the tender olive braves the Atlantic breeze. Perhaps the temperature is more equal on the sea shore, especially when the back ground is more or less elevated. Some plants admit of a considerable extent of latitude, and annuals are more free to range than others. Tobacco, St. Pierre says, is successfully cultivated beyond the 61st degree north; and barley succeeds in the very bosom of the north: Finland in this respect equals the plains of Palestine. But

where the husbandry has been superior, and attention paid to a judicious course of crops. But a *stated course of crops* is not the whole of a rational system of agriculture : circumstances should be attended to by the farmer, that will often interfere or not arrange with the best course. Perhaps no positive rules for this purpose can be laid down. Some soils are naturally prone to grass, and consequently should be appropriated to grazing crops, while others are better calculated for corn. Inclination of surface and bearing of aspect are points that should not be forgotten. Inequalities are better adapted for grass ; not because more grass will grow in a given extent, but because they are difficult to plough, and by their declivities facilitate the escape of manures, or prevent a regular distribution, either of which are prejudicial to the production of corn. North and north-easterly aspects have been found from experience ungenial to wheats, while rye, and oats grow remarkably well. The sea spray and strong western gales are highly injurious to wheat ; but barley and oats thrive in the very face of both.

In many of these respects the garden furnishes an important lesson, for horticulture is agriculture in miniature, and the garden a farm on a smaller scale. The horticulturist trenches his land where the strata will admit ; by proper manures attempts the soil ; crops the land by interchanges adapted to the state of the soil ; makes choice of different aspects for the various fruits, in proportion as they covet the

temperature depends also upon *elevation*, and wheat equally refuses a height above 1500 yards from the level of the sea, as it does a higher latitude than 54° .

sun or shade ; and for the less hardy plants procures a shelter both from heat and cold. Though perhaps gardeners would not make the best farmers, yet a careful attention to their plans of vegetable production would tend to enlighten those occupied in husbandry.

Sheep, as they are at present managed, are a great discouragement to the improver. Accustomed to range during the summer months over unlimited pastures, they become impatient of restraint, and an erratic mode of life seems necessary to their existence ; and no method hitherto adopted appears to be effectual to prevent their trespassing on forbidden ground. It is a custom to fetter them by tying the off leg behind with the near leg before by a rope, or a band of entwisted hay or rushes : but the animals, urged by hunger and the strong desire of change, soon eat through these restraints, and then every field of winter corn or fodder becomes subject to their depredations. Accustomed, like their compeers, the goats, to leap from crag to crag in quest of food, the highest mounds are an insufficient fence.* Their agility is no less surprizing than their instinct. About the beginning of March they are sent to the mountains, where they remain during the summer months, depasturing the commonable herbage, frequently without a shepherd ; and such is their gregarious and social nature, that the flocks from the distant farms seldom intermix, and at the autumnal muster rarely is there a single delinquent to be

* After repeated trials, a wall about seven feet high, with a coping that juts over horizontally six inches, has been found the only secure barrier against these unwelcome visitors. *

found.* The latter end of September, or the beginning of October, according as the weather proves favourable or otherwise, they, as it were by one consent, begin to descend from the heights; and at this time, if the weather prove very wet or cold, you may see tens of thousands filing off to their respective homes: nor is it in the power of the farmer, though his harvest may not be housed, to prevent this unseasonable irruption of his flock. This is a very peculiar breed of sheep, and is supposed to have been the original stock whence descended the present race in Spain. The body, both in size and symmetry are not unlike; and many rams we have seen so like to those imported from the Marino flocks, that they could scarcely be distinguished. Specimens of wool also we have procured, little inferior to that marked T, the produce of Spain: what therefore might not be expected by proper crossing? Much has been done in England this way with

* This community of pasture, however, facilitates the commission of crimes, and sheep stealing is more frequent than in England. Formerly one person would have ten or a dozen marks; and when he wanted to house or sell his sheep, he would send his servants to bring in any they found with either of his marks, which appropriation he considered no crime; and from the number and similarity of ear marks, it was difficult to prove it felony. This evil growing enormous, on complaint being made to the council of the marshes, orders were sent, 35th of Elizabeth, to the sheriffs and justices for the redress of these grievances, and the suppression of these and other felonies. Every family hath now its hereditary mark, which is duly registered in the Leet Roll, as coats of arms are in the Herald's College: and though the points are few, yet the variations arising from their combination often occasion confusion in the blazonry of this pastoral heraldry.

dissimilar breeds of sheep, (Vid. Parry on Wool); and more might be expected where the *dissimilarity* was less. It would appear from actual observation, however, that amelioration depends more upon care than cross, upon attention than sanguinity. The trait we have mentioned shews us how we ought to regard instinct; that Nature strongly dislikes being thwarted, and that a proper attention to her dictates would insure success, where failure too often disappoints both the farmer and physician. It is almost incredible what regard the Iberian shepherds pay to food, change of pasture, and station, as it respects temperature, and shelter; and the result may teach us how much is effected by these means.

We have been told that coarse wool is invariably the produce of the north, and fine wool of the south. But this is a very inaccurate account. Among different animals, the sheep perhaps is capable of as great a range of latitude as any; but his favoured clime appears to lie between 54° and 38° north. When he is found much to the northward or southward of these parallels, he appears a different animal, his constitution is changed, he becomes more subject to disease, and his clothing is no longer that soft, fine, elastic substance we are accustomed to admire. The wool of the Swedish sheep is exceedingly coarse, and that of the Tropical climes so *kempy* as to resemble hair. Anderson, however, states, that with regard to the sheep in Jamaica, this is but partially true. The exception probably has arisen from circumstances that will corroborate the doctrine. Formerly this phenomenon might have been seen in Cornwall; and it was as famous for hairy sheep, as fattening cattle with *pill corn*, or seed of the naked oat (*avena*

nuda of Linné). But since more attention has been paid to their flocks, the wool is no longer denominated *Cornish hair*. Hence it is evident that skill and care are as essential to the production of fine wool, as either breed or clime; and that an article of such great national importance might be abundantly produced within our own country.

The implements of husbandry are rude, and ill calculated for improvement. The ploughs of the country are inconceivably awkward. In some, the mould board is supplied by a stick, fixed at a small angle from the share to the beam. In others it is a straight board, which, constantly clogging, unfits it for the office. The body is of a large size, with a long beam, which increases the power of the resistance, and diminishes the draught: the share is without a wing, and the coulter placed in such a direction as to be of little use. The carriages are generally drays, or carts, waggons being seldom seen. The dray of this country is a most simple and puerile machine. It consists of two long maiden poles, the smaller ends serving for shafts, and the larger, confined by a cross bar, drag on the ground; on this inclined plane the load is kept on by two uprights, fixed on the sides, about two feet from the lower extremity: this is chiefly used in the mountainous parts. In the vales you will often see two small wheels, about a foot diameter, added. The cart consists of a pair of shafts placed upon two wheels, running upon a wooden axle, in such a loose, giggling manner, you would suppose they were momentarily coming off; this must occasion a more difficult draft than if the wheels ran truer: The

body is long and narrow, which upon uneven ground either throws the load behind out of the true line of draft, or so forward as to become an intolerable burthen on the shaft horse. The roads, however, are many of them so narrow, as not to admit of wider carriages; and this is an apology for the use of the present ill-contrived ones, even where there is room enough. With these they go for coal and lime, and with these they carry home their harvest.

In cutting wheat they still use the common reaping hook, so inferior to the sickle; but barley and oats they mow with a scythe, armed with a cradle; similar to those used in the plains of Piedmont. By this means they lay the *swathe* so even, that it is easily collected by hand, and bound in sheaves; a custom certainly preferable to the slovenly method in England, of housing oats and barley like *hay or straw*. The stacking up their sheaves in mows, covered with others reversed, called *heckling*, is certainly a judicious method, and worthy of imitation, especially in what is called a dripping harvest.

In the barton or rickyard, the stavels, or ricks are small, seldom containing more than ten or twelve thrave; and this they suppose contributes to the preservation of the grain. But the best reason may be found in what may be considered a serious evil, the smallness of their barns: one of these small ricks being as much as they can house to thresh at one time.

Threshing, or winnowing machines are not introduced, and even the old vane is but partially used, the chaff being separated from the corn by natural means. In favourable weather it is taken upon

some neighbouring eminence, and shovelled in the face of the wind, the chaff flies off, and the corn drops beneath.

Happy, if when he had arrived thus far, the Welsh farmer were careful of the produce of the farm. His hay and straw, used as fodder, he suffers to be dissipated in various places, without the smallest benefit accruing from its consumption. Immediately after harvest he sells his grain, when the price is generally lowest, and thus deprives himself of the advantage of the best market—and so improvident as not to reserve sufficient for his own use, he is often necessitated to purchase at a time, when the price becomes a considerable drawback on the profits of the farm.

Thus, improvidence renders him necessitous, necessity superinduces idleness; and idleness in the farmer always insures the impoverishment of the farm.

Many of the errors so visible in the agriculture of this country, certainly arise from the ignorance, prejudice, indolence, and poverty of the tenants; but there are others, which attach to the proprietors of estates. The letting of farms on rack rent, or from year to year, is highly injudicious, as it throws a certain obstacle in the way of improvement: for who would be forward to expend his money in improvements which may not be likely to benefit himself or family. The letting lands by *auction*, a practice frequently adopted here, is still more injurious; for he who has been unwise enough to be the highest bidder, will not fail attempting to repair the loss his folly has occasioned, by draining the land of its extractable nourishment, during the short term he may be in possession.

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The want of proper outhouses is an essential deficiency in the encouragement justly due to the tenant ; for without these, it is in vain for him to attempt improvement—the *barton*, with its accompanying barns, stables, and stalls, is the source whence must be derived the principal substances to enrich the farm. The putting the repairs of buildings as an onus upon the tenant, is another instance of mistaken economy : few are disposed to repair the houses of others, and none less so, perhaps, than rude uneducated farmers. The maxim “*obsta principiis*” is peculiarly urgent here.

The general inattention to proper fencing, is too obvious to require an observation ; for land badly fenced reverts to the state of common, and thus it is added to the numerous *wastes* (here called mountains), which are of no advantage to the farmer, and highly injurious, in their present unproductive state, to the public. It has been stated that they are friendly to breeding cattle, affording the breeder a cheap run for his young stock ; but are not these a stunted race of little comparative value ? and do not many of them die for want of shelter and food ? which, had they been on inclosed land, would have lived and thriven ; and has it not been ascertained, that four times as many sheep and cattle could be bred and reared upon a given extent of land, fenced and in an improved state ?

The observation, that cottagers would be greatly injured by a general inclosure of the waste lands, is made for want of attending to the state of the case : the supposed advantage is, that of keeping a cow, or a few sheep ; but it has been clearly proved, if a cottager would place his cow to some neighbouring

farm to tack, even at three shillings per week, the extra profit would amount to more than the whole of such a cow kept upon the starving waste.

Sheep, from being subject to the worrying of dogs, contagion from other flocks, and the various diseases arising from want, are almost always a losing speculation. But too often the cottager substitutes a hog for the cow, or sheep; this enables him to attend the distant fairs and revels, which otherwise he would be unable to do. Thus idleness and profligacy are produced by this supposed advantage; and the most abject penury the consequence of this boasted privilege. And it will be found, with very few exceptions, that the labouring poor in the vicinity of large commons are more necessitous than those residing in an inclosed country.

Commons may be traced to the darkest æra of society; and the barbarous relics of the feudal system still remain, while land exists with such a tenure, and in such a state.

The waste lands of Wales only amount to 150,000 acres: A great part of this would make excellent upland pasture for sheep; another part is capable of being converted into excellent arable and pasture, and a large portion well adapted for planting to advantage. The scarcity of 1799, and the consequent high price of bread in 1800 and 1801; the probability of this happening again; the money sent out of the kingdom for the purchase of corn; and the extravagant sums expended for navy timber, and other stores, growable on our neglected lands, are so many powerful motives for engaging in the important work. Indeed it would be easy to write a volume upon the necessity and practicability of

rendering the wastes productive lands ; but voluminous reasoning can make but little head against a host of prejudice ; and the most self-evident propositions are too often discarded, or thwarted by opposing interests. Yet, as it has justly been observed by a noble author, “ The patriot will ever wish, that while an acre of such waste shall remain, the legislature will not suffer an inhabitant to be driven to seek subsistence in a distant clime.* In a country where wood is so scarce, and the numerous mines, and smelting houses create such an increasing demand, policy would suggest the wisdom of planting. Indeed, neither in England nor Wales can there be a shadow of an apology for the shameful neglect of a duty, so pleasing in its exercise, and so beneficial in its consequences ; and more especially incumbent on the large proprietors : For, as Johnson justly and severely observes, “ It is only to put the acorn in the ground to raise the future oak, which once planted will propagate itself.”

It is put in reply, that many parts of Wales are too rocky, and others too elevated for the growth of timber. But the stools still observable, in the decayed forests amid the mountains, are a confutation of this idle objection ; and the number of places still retaining the name *coed* evinces that this country

* Of such importance has this part of the internal improvement of a country been viewed by a rising continental power, that Frederick of Prussia, called the *Great*, enforced by all means the cultivation of waste lands, appropriating for this purpose from his great military expenditure, the sum of 600,000*l.* sterling, in the space of twenty years. An example worthy of imitation in a nation so famed for science, and that stands so high in the memoirs of improvement as *this*.

once abounded with wood. The groves of the Menai, of the Conway, and of the Nedd rivers, where the loftiest forest trees flourish, prove that rocky soils are no impediment to the growth of a variety of timber trees. Even the coast, supposed to be so unfit for planting, may be cultivated with success, by planting such trees as will bear the assailing elements and smile.

“ ——— Quales cum vertice celso
Aeræ quercus aut coniferæ cyperissi
Constiterunt, sylva alta Jovis lucusque Dianæ.
Virg. Æn.

The oak, *quercus robur* : beech, *fagus sylvatica* ; birch, *betula pensila* ; the service, *sorbus aucuparia* ; aspin, *populus tremula* ; larch, *pinus larinx* ; and *pinus communis*, or Scotch fir, with some others, not only stand the sea spray, but radicate in limestone, schistose, and almost all stratified rocks, and thrive amidst the exposure of considerable elevations.

The quick growing timber will in most cases compensate for those of slower growth. Were the subject properly attended to, even mines, that have been destructive of woods, may become the preservers of timber. Mr. Evelyn mentions it as the opinion of his father, founded on his own experience, “ That the iron works in the vicinity preserved his woods.” He felled a part annually, leaving the choice trees standing, which he was enabled to do from the profits arising from the sale of charcoal. His regular falls produced a reasonable rent, and the standing timber was reserved as a fine.

In opposition to what Mr. Evelyn has advanced

respecting the benefits accruing from planting to individuals, it has been advanced that wood lands might be turned to more profitable purposes, because arable and pasturage employ, at the present, many hands; whereas timber, while growing, finds work for few, or none: and that the rental is far inferior to other lands.

It must be granted, that wood during its growth gives employment to but few hands; but it hinders none, and when felled, in its consequences it furnishes subsistence to many. And we have known many woodlands let for twenty shillings per acre, and the taking highly advantageous to the tenant. It must be a poor acre of wood, that after fourteen years growth is not worth thirty pounds; and then point out land that with the same care will afford equal profit to the holder.

Wherever the circumstances are such, as to support this argument, maxims of prudence will ever operate as a restraint on planting. But where land is what is termed *woolseer*, i. e. calculated for the growth of wood, the objection becomes invalid; and where private interest coincides with public benefit, every encouragement is held out for this species of improvement. Houghton, in his collect for improvements in husbandry, endeavours to invalidate the instances of advantage adduced by Evelyn. But an analysis of his arguments proves them mere fallacies; nor will his reasoning stand the test of calculation. Beside, in an island inhabited by a commercial people, timber is absolutely necessary for its welfare; and it can never be wisdom to prefer things of momentary convenience to those of indis-

pensable necessity. As policy should lead us to take a prospective, so gratitude should also induce us to adopt a retrospective view.

If we have received blessings by the provident care and labour of our predecessors, we ought to be careful to transmit similar blessings to our successors: and if the welfare of our country be an object of patriotic importance, our conduct ought to be regulated by the probable wants of posterity. The future demands of the navy, commercial shipping, buildings, &c. are objects to which due attention should be paid by the present possessors; and the decrease in supply and the increase in demand, together with the exhausted state of many of our principal collieries, place the matter in the most striking point of view. The duty of planting is urgent, it is indispensable. Experience points it out as profitable; but to the liberal man, the argument will be sufficiently strong, from the prospect of those blessings, which posterity will derive from his previous attention and salutary care.

If to some the objections to planting appear to have weight, there can be none to a *proper attention being paid to lands already under wood*. To render them as profitable as possible at present, and secure a permanency of profits, must be an appeal that will be felt by every interested bosom. From the very erroneous opinion, that woods require neither culture nor care till the time of felling, no attention has hitherto been paid to this species of property. In consequence the deficiency in their products has been incalculably great: For want of proper fencing has subjected the sylvan scene to the depredatory intrusions of the routing hog, and the

browsing goat. The former by devouring the acorns, and other arboriferous seeds, destroys the plants in embryo; while the latter, by barking the infant plants prevents their growth. The neglect also of thinning the underwood, and clearing away brambles, briars, and pernicious weeds, has prevented the beneficial effects arising from the admission of air, and sufficient space: Attention to these points are essentially requisite to stop the ravages that threaten the total destruction of the present woods.

If mining, agriculture, and planting be thus neglected, it cannot be supposed the genius of the people should be eminent in trade. Indeed, excepting the few instances before alluded to, there is scarcely such a thing as manufactures. The country produces abundance of wool; and the continual recurrence of rivers and streams affords ample means of manufacturing it to advantage. Yet, except a few flannels in North Wales, and a few druggets in the south, for domestic purposes, there is nothing like an attempt at a profitable weaving trade. In the interior parts of South Wales, almost every female is acquainted with the arts of carding and spinning wool, which they knit into stockings, wigs, caps, &c. A woman will, by close application, card, spin, and knit about four pairs of full sized stockings per week. These will take two pounds of wool, of such as the dealers refuse, and four ounces of oil. When brought to market they will sell for about ten pence per pair. The account will stand thus—wool, 1s. 8d.—oil, 4d.—sale of stockings, 3s. 4d.—gain 1s. 4d. Miserable, hard earned profits indeed! How much is it to be regretted, that the arm of labour should be thus cramped, and that the spirit of industry, which the

females of this country possess in a much greater degree than the males, should not be diverted to a more profitable channel.

Formerly they manufactured flannels and coarse cloths for sale ; but of late years this has dwindled to nothing, and English dealers buy up the greater part of the wool, which, when manufactured into cloth, is again returned them at six or eight times the original price. This impolitic sale of the raw article may gratify those residing to the east of the Severn ; but it adds an increasing weight upon the shoulders of the Welsh, already too heavily pressed by the iron hand of want and penury.

Would the patriotic gentlemen take up the subject, and encourage manufactures in their several districts, they would soon materially better the condition of the labouring poor.

The people of South Wales are different in person, language, dress, &c. from those of North Wales. The characteristics of broad foreheads, high cheek bones, dark eyes, and black hair, are much less distinct ; the language less pure, and their dress varies almost in every county. Much of this has doubtless arisen from their form of government, under separate chieftains, only acknowledging the sovereignty of the Prince of South Wales ; and much from the great intermixture of strangers—Flemings, Normans, English, &c., whose different manners have mingled with those of the country. The shades of peculiarity are stronger in the vicinity of the mountains, and weaker as you approach the coast.

They are a hardy race, patient of fatigue, though not given to labour, and, if not so robust as the English peasantry, what they want in strength they

make up by agility: Perhaps this may be accounted for from their mode of living. They but seldom eat butchers' meat, and beer is among their luxuries; barley cakes, baked on a flat iron, called a back stone, potatoes mixed with skimmed milk, and buttermilk, or the liquor called *dodrigryafel*, constitute their principal food. The latter, a fermented liquor from the juice of the wild service tree, you will recognize as a classical beverage. Virg. G. iii. L. 379.

Their temper, like that of their brethren in the north, is warm, quick, impatient of controul, and addicted to revenge. Fuller facetiously observes, "That their spirit is like their country, full of ups and downs, of elevations and depressions." Yet, when unprovoked, they are peaceably disposed, and possess a very considerable degree of generosity and hospitality. The latter is not so frequently found as formerly, owing to the great impositions that have been practised on the generous minded inhabitants; and the less necessity there is for its exercise, from the opening of turnpike roads, and the establishment of inns. But speaking from experience we can say, she has not yet quitted the country; and that she will still be found an inmate in almost every mansion.

The early Britons were fond of the sports of the field, and the game dogs of Britain, Strabo says, were highly esteemed by the Romans. Though Cæsar observes that the Druidical religion forbade the eating of hares' flesh, yet it does not follow, that this animal was not included among others obnoxious to the chase. It is at present a most favourite amusement, and the sound of the horn is much more frequently heard than the ploughman's whistle. From the nature of the country, but few horsemen attend a

hunt ; frequently the gentlemen with the huntsman are dismounted ; and numbers on foot climb some neighbouring eminence, whence, from the circumvolutions made by the poor animal, when worried by the dogs, they advantageously see what they consider the best of the sport. Others with hunting poles in their hands, more fleet of foot, will follow the dogs, leaping brooks and bogs with surprising agility ; and from judgment and celerity, are not unfrequently in at the death.

During the establishment of the Romans in Britain, it does not appear, that any restrictive laws respecting game were promulgated by that people. In their early jurisprudence it was an established maxim, to invest the right of such things as were *feræ naturæ* with the first possessor. From the silence of ancient historians upon this subject, it is probable, the Britons were left at liberty to exercise their ancient rights and privileges. The game laws are still looked upon as unreasonable restraints on their liberty ; nor are they much put in force in the interior of the country.

Cocking, as it is termed, or fighting cocks regularly trained for the purpose, is another popular diversion ; and perhaps this has tended to produce the very large breed of fowls in many parts of the country. This sport, derived from the Romans, and encouraged by several English Monarchs, is often conducted in Wales in a manner which greatly enhances its cruelty : It is termed the *Welsh main*, and doubtless arose from that determined and irrestrainable spirit with which the Welsh enter into every kind of contest. It consists of so many pair of cocks, suppose sixteen, which fight with each other until one half of them are killed ; the sixteen con-

querors are pitted a second time in like manner; and half are slain; the eight survivors a third time; the four a fourth time; and the remaining two a fifth time: So that thirty one cocks are sure to be inhumanly murdered for the sport of the spectators.

From the number of rings observable in the different towns, and villages, bull baiting also has been a favourite diversion; but this barbarous pastime is justly growing fast into disuse.

Otter hunting in the neighbourhood of the lakes and rivers furnishes considerable sport during the winter season; and a variety of other amusements in common with England, tend to divert the mind from ennui and melancholy.

Unbounded credulity is another prominent feature in the character of the Welsh. This subjects them to perpetual imposition: hence their faith in *fynnon vair*, or holy wells; and the confidence they place in those impudent charlatans in medicine vulgarly denominated *water doctors*: men who, Browne observes, endeavour to make us believe, that there is Aaron's breast-plate in urines; and to these they have recourse as to the oracle of life; make them the determinators of virginity, conception, fecundity, and all the inscrutable infirmities of the human frame; and pretend to resolve things at which the devil of Delphos would demur. Many of these * are in repute in every county, and the people appeal to them for advice in the diseases of cattle also. Astrologers who pretend

* Mention is made in the *Amœnitates Academicæ*, Vol. 3, of one of these uroscopic empirics at Amsterdam, who acquired a fortune by prognosticating whether persons would live or die, from the smell of their urine. It being a fact, that the urine of dying persons is destitute of odour.

to understand the cabala of the stars, and others of inferior pretensions, make them believe that arbitrary and accidental events below are necessarily connected with causes above: upon which they credulously assent to any vain prognostic, and swallow greedily the blasphemous predictions of men respecting affairs, which, from the independency of their causes, and the contingency of their events, can only be known to the prescience of God.

But credulity is the offspring of superstition, which is made up of an unreasonable degree of religious fear. As soon as religion began to lose its purity, it very fast degenerated; and instead of a comfortable sense of duty, there succeeded a fearful gloom; an unnatural horror, which was continually augmented, as men departed from the source of truth. In the first ages, urged by this misguiding principle, men repaired to the summits of mountains, as supposing they should be nearer the residence of the Deity; or to lonely caverns, which they considered the retreat of spiritual agents. (Vid. Porphyry.) Hence originated the belief in polytheism, the supposed existence of numberless deities, the profane rites and barbarous customs so conspicuous among heathen nations, the gross and visible darkness amidst the enlightened ages of Greece and Rome. From them it descended, through different channels, to us; and though Christianity has dispelled much of the gloom, yet it has hitherto been unable to expel the whole of those dense meteors from the atmosphere of truth.

No wonder then, that in a mountainous and secluded country like this, superstition has taken her seat; and, supported by ignorance and adherence to tradition, she still retains it; that popular errors are

received as true, imaginary delusions considered as realities, and things believed which to the eye of reason appear preposterous and absurd. Hence the belief in fairies, the re-appearance of departed spirits, supernatural appearances, and miraculous powers exercised by invisible agents during the peaceable time of night is pretty general through the country. What is called second sight in Scotland, here *awn-mawr*, is confined to some districts; and in Cardigan and its borders the belief in *canwyll corf*, or the *corpse candle* is greatly magnified and extended. This is a light discoverable by some indifferent person previous to the death of another in the neighbourhood; and is looked upon as an infallible prognostic of fatality, in whatever house it is seen to enter: there it is supposed to remain till the time affixed for the interment of the person whose mortality it has presaged, when it moves slowly before the funeral procession; and when the body is laid in the grave it instantly disappears. This phenomenon may be accounted for from the frequent inflammation of hydrogynous gas mixing with atmospheric air, and enkindled by electric matter. Indeed, from the peaty and morassy spoils of this district, such is its phosphorescent quality, that often sparks of fire will be seen under the feet of travellers, which, to persons unacquainted with the cause, must appear formidable, if not ominous. From similar causes proceed those luminous effects called, from the supposed shapes they assume, *lan-tŷns*, flying dragons, dancing giants, &c. &c.

It is a custom in Caermarthenshire to repair at midnight, on the eve of All Souls' Day, to the parish church, to look into the book of fate, then supposed to be opened. After uttering certain prayers, and

attending in silence till the awful hour, they suppose they hear distinctly whispered the names of all those that shall die in their neighbourhood during the following year. That this was an imposition practised upon the people during the time of popery, I can readily believe; and there can be little doubt, but the wantonness of the present age tends to support the farce.

During the Christmas holidays, till after twelfth day, it is a custom for persons to assume the shape of a horse, or bull,* either clothed in the skin, or dressed in the shape of one of those animals, and attended by a company of idle people, to enter the house of respectable people, neighing or bellowing in a hideous manner, and committing other acts of rudeness, to the great terror or annoyance of the inhabitants, who generally, by a gratuity of viands and money, purchase their deliverance from these invaders of their peace. Johnson mentions a similar custom practised in the Hebrides; as also another, very frequent here, that of bowing or courtesying, and blessing the *new moon*. Others, common to both parts of the principality, I have mentioned in my description of North Wales: many of them clearly relics of the impious rites and ridiculous ceremonies used in the *Saturnalia* of the ancient Romans. A spirit directly opposite to this has, however, of late years occupied the bosom of the Welsh. *A misguided and excessive zeal in matters of religion*. If superstition fears, enthusiasm presumes too much;

* From this most probably was derived the *stalking-horse* of the fowlers, and the *hobby-horse* of the jugglers, during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. (Vid. Strutt's Sports.)

and the danger from presumption is greater than from fear. The one is consistent with humility, the other is constantly accompanied by pride. Standing on the ground where Christianity was planted, at a very early period, and which had for ages been the theatre for the display of truth in greater purity than in many other places, we could not but lament to see the present humiliating state of the church and the ravages made in the flock of Christ. Methodism, as it is vulgarly termed, wears a very different aspect in the southern to what it does in the northern part of the principality. It does not however consist in heresy, but in fanaticism ; not so much in perverse, or unscriptural doctrines, as a disorderly zeal for the propagation of truth ; which produces irregularity, confusion, and many evil works.

There are many sects of what are considered regular dissenters from the established church, which had their rise in the reigns of James and Charles ; and especially during the Protectorate of Cromwel. And these are often confounded with the modern seceders. Indeed the churches are very generally neglected, and what is termed the dissenting interest makes rapid strides over this part of the principality ; for the result of these secessions generally, after the ebullitions of opposition have subsided, is an accumulation of numbers on the side of dissent. Few, even if self convicted of the impropriety of their conduct in departing, seldom return to acknowledge their error in the bosom of the church. Some powerful causes must have operated to occasion such a serious dereliction. The love of novelty, or the pride of distinction are inadequate to account for such numbers breaking off their adherence to antiquity, and

rising superior to the most inveterate prejudices and confirmed habits. The probable causes are many, and some which we shall here pass over, are best known to the parties at issue ; but others are too obvious not to be distinctly seen.

The poverty of the church stands forward as a distinguishing cause. The livings are chiefly vicarages, and, owing to the unjust rapacity of the 8th Henry, are so small, as to render pluralities necessary to procure incumbency. The inconsiderable sums which can be allowed to assistants, or stipendiary curates, occasions a greater plurality in curacies than in livings : nor is it unfrequent for a clergyman to have four or five different churches to serve on the same day. How the solemn service of our liturgy must, from necessity, be performed, may be better conceived than expressed ; especially when it is recollected, that several miles are to be rode or walked over during the same period. This extraordinary labour, and so ill rewarded, deters men of education, of talent, and piety from engaging in the service. Others, therefore, from among the lowest of the people, and destitute of education, (at least such as is necessary to understand divinity, and properly explain it to others) are necessarily admitted into holy orders ; many of whom, by the lowness of their manners, too often throw obstacles in the way of truth, and degrade their ministry. Is it matter of surprise then, if the people, finding their pastors as illiterate as themselves, should be inclined to follow others with more pretensions to piety, and at least equal claims to human learning ? and that the semblance of religion, to allow nomore, should have more influence than apparent indifference. Hence has arisen a

conduct directly opposite to the formerly well received maxim, "Na difanco y beryglawr." Do not vilify your parish priest."

The remedy is, to ameliorate the situation of the parochial clergy, encourage men of learning and respectability to undertake the duties of the church. The labourer is worthy of his hire; and when persons are deemed qualified to fill the most important station, as it respects this or a future world, the least which might be expected should be, to protect them from the most poignant of all sufferings, *genteel poverty*, and the consequent contempt brought forth upon them and religion, from their inability to move with decent propriety in the conspicuous sphere in which they are placed. The wise and religious part of the clergy, of which there are a goodly number, I doubt not would disclaim earthly honours, they would forego earthly advantages, for the great cause they espouse and love. But when many of them have spent their patrimony in an education to qualify them for the priesthood; and when admitted, are by law restricted from every means of supporting a wife and family, but what arises from the miserable, the *taunting pittance*, even of what is called a tolerable living, or a good curacy; they request the state either to remove these restrictions, and give them at least the privileges of dissenters, or make a moderate provision for their necessary support, place them above the temptations of want, and allow them some small comforts, in return for their pastoral care, and their public advice. A decent provision for a regular and orderly minister, has been ever considered by enlightened nations as an essential point in a rational policy. And if any church ever had a right to such

a provision, surely it is that pure and apostolic one established in this kingdom. The claim is urgent, the necessity strong; it not only solicits, but demands the most immediate attention: for there is no class of society so oppressed by imperious circumstances, as those which the barbarism of the times invidiously styles the Inferior Clergy, alias those who bear the heat and burthen of the day; and who perform the principal service in the church of Christ. Their duty is arduous, their situation degrading. The case of dissenting ministers is a desirable one in this respect, when compared with that of men possessed of the enviable emoluments of tythes, and professedly fostered in the bosom of the state. At the close of the late ruinous and tremendous war, it might have been expected from *gratitude*, that the legislature would have paid some respect to the wants of the clergy. When Europe was convulsed by internal division, and discord overturned states; rebellion trampled upon crowns, and anarchy erected her standard; when various trains were laid, and their numerous explosions shook this kingdom to its very centre; what preserved it on its base? Under Providence, the wisdom, the learning, the abilities, the piety, the patriotism, and loyalty of the clergy. By their exhortations, conversation, and example, they stemmed the torrent of innovation; and by their persevering resistance put to flight the dæmon of division. Their unshaken loyalty, I repeat, was, *Deo juvante*, the preservation of our country. Even under the pressure of want, when the allurements of wealth and power were held out, not one was to be found that relinquished his duty of inculcating *submission*; not one, that, awed by menaces, or seduced by re-

wards, would forego preaching the sin and folly of *insubordination*. How have they been rewarded? They are left with the satisfaction of seeing the blessings of unanimity restored to their country, while their own minds are harassed by penury, and their peace destroyed by the incessant demands, made still more urgent by their increasing necessity. *Sed talia me meminisse luget.*

A second and powerful cause is the neglect of preaching the doctrines of the gospel, and substituting in their room lessons taken from the Heathen schools of Greece and Rome. If holiness proceed from Faith in Christ, then the end of preaching can never be obtained by mere moral persuasion. It has justly been observed, that though religion include morality, yet morality is not religion. For though a religious man cannot be immoral, yet a strictly moral man may be irreligious; and infidelity boasts of her numerous examples of the strictest morality. The morality enjoined in the gospel is of a different nature to that inculcated in the pagan writers. It proceeds from higher motives, it is carried to a greater extent, and enforced by different and stronger sanctions. As a passing stranger through the country, I may not be competent to speak upon this subject; but a learned prelate, who lately presided over this part of the church, attributes the increase of methodism principally to *this cause*, the too apparent discrepance between the pulpit and the desk; the incongruity observable between the liturgy read, and the doctrines preached. In his charge delivered at his primary visitation of St. David's, the subject of *morality and religion* are most ably discussed. After clearly illustrating some of the principal doctrines of

our church, he adds, "I am much mistaken, if a proper diligence on our own parts to inculcate these doctrines, which are indeed the very basis of the Christian system, which the philosophisers of the present times explain away, and the illiterate enthusiast, by the meanness of his style, and the absurdity of his illustrations, too often burlesques; I am mistaken if a proper diligence on our part to inculcate these doctrines would not soon supersede the necessity of all controversy. Truth deeply planted in the public mind would keep possession by its own native strength: the common people made proficient in the faith, however in other respects illiterate, and accustomed to the doctrine originally delivered to the saints, would turn with horror from every thing of a contrary sound: nourished with the sincere milk of the word, they would refuse a drink of doubtful quality, mingled by a stranger. In a word, our churches would be thronged; while the moralizing Unitarian would be left to read his dull weekly lecture to the walls of his deserted conventicle, and the field preacher would bellow unregarded to the wilderness." *Bishop Horsley.*

While I thus oppose the usurpation of the priesthood, lament the divisions * among Christians, and

* A great political writer has stated, "That numerous sects are beneficial to society." *Smith's Wealth of Nations.* But this cannot be true *prima facie*; for if unanimity lead to peace, the want of it must lead to strife; and he who considers contention and division as a stable foundation for the social compact, must dissent to a doctrine divine in its origin, and confirmed by experience. Eventually perhaps, as God bringeth good out of evil, they may in mercy be permitted to prevent any combination to corrupt the scriptures, excite holy emulation, and give room for self-denial, and the exercise of charity.

deprecate the consequences arising from a misguided zeal, I would not be understood to trench for a moment on the sacred principle of toleration. No! God forbid, that, as a Christian minister, I should encourage the most distant idea of persecution. The history of the evils arising from want of Christian forbearance, and charity about difference in religious opinions, most powerfully deter me. As the principle of Tertullian is mine, the language of Tertullian is my motto, "Non est religionis religionem coercere." Let the right of private judgment remain inviolate, let the exercise of public worship, as far as consistent with the safety of the state, be perfectly free. But the bigot will object, the evil is increasing; and toleration, already too far extended, evidently makes it the greater. What is to be done? *Not persecute.* Remember it is easier to rail than to reason; to censure, than confute. That misrepresentation and violence only tend to rouse the fiercer passions, and widen the breach; that we ought to make allowances for our fellow creatures, from the consideration of our own weakness; reflect that few persons view objects in the same light; and that amid the dark and double images of things, it is difficult to separate what is clear from what is obscure, and assign each its proper place in the picture, as to light and shade; that universal orthodoxy or general uniformity were never yet established; that faith is the gift of God, to which the heart must be disposed by divine grace: any attempt therefore to change it, but by persuasion and prayer, is an usurpation of that prerogative, which God has exclusively reserved to himself. *The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but spiritual:* let us then, by

example as well as precept, persuade them we are in the right, and by the purity of our doctrines, and the fervency of our zeal, prove, that we are of the true faith ; and demonstrate both by our *holding the truth* as well as the *lineage of our descent, that we are the genuine successors of the first evangelists*, and that the true apostolical succession is preserved without controversy in the episcopal church. Remembering that he approximates nearest the throne of God, who most adorns the doctrines of the Saviour. Let us by forbearance, meekness, and moderation, endeavour to enlist those who are in error under the banners of benevolence ; and may ministers, as the delegates of heaven, propose truth in a way calculated to secure its triumph over the heart—not cloud it by rancour and severity, but brighten it by the *heavenly rays of humanity and love*.

FINIS.

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ERRATA.

Page	3, line 6, for	Bulla	read	Valla
p. 10, (Note)	—	striata	—	stricta
p. 14, l. 2,	—	refulgent	—	refluent
p. 22, l. 32,	—	Charles II.	—	Charles I.
p. 36, (Note)	—	statice	—	statice
p. 37, l. 10,	—	Verta	—	Venta
p. 56, l. 23,	—	Gildar	—	Gildas
p. 59, (Note)	—	tennifolia	—	tenuifolia
p. 61, l. 8,	—	Devandon	—	Devaudon
p. 62, l. 23,	—	Do.	—	Do.
p. 68, l. 26,	—	Aberdan	—	Aberdare
p. 72, l. 6,	—	Aberdave	—	Aberdare
p. Do. l. 17,	—	woodland	—	headland
p. 82, (Note)	—	loyal	—	legal
p. 90, l. 27,	—	Morgam	—	Margam
p. 92, l. 19,	—	cooked	—	coaked
p. 95, l. 17,	—	Bublæum	—	Bullæum
p. 104, l. 2,	—	Myrthis	—	Myrthir
p. Do. l. 9,	—	Prætoxium	—	Prætorium
p. 107, l. 22,	—	Warm's	—	Worm's
p. 108, l. 12,	—	Barry	—	Bury
p. Do. l. 18,	—	no	—	an
p. 115, l. 5, & seq.	for	Illed	read	Illed
p. 120, l. 24,	—	Robright	—	Rolright
p. 130, l. 32,	—	Doveril	—	Deveril
p. 137, (Note)	—	Oxwick	—	Oxwich
p. 144, l. 21,	<i>dele</i>	indeed	—	—
p. 153, l. 33,	—	Llanmianyl	—	Llanmyangle
p. 165, l. 17,	—	Ruby	—	Raby
p. Do. l. 28,	—	Hurford	—	Harford
p. 183, l. 18,	—	Rayland	—	Ragland
p. 194, l. 23,	—	same	—	same time
p. 195, l. 6,	—	Dengleddy	—	Deugleddy
p. 200, l. 27,	—	Worrington	—	Warrington
p. 202, l. 17,	—	Reymars	—	Keymars
p. 211, (Note)	—	Landeveily	—	Landeveilog
p. 214, l. 11,	—	Sywy	—	Tywy
p. 233, l. 7,	—	Landu	—	Landa
p. Do. l. 19,	<i>dele</i>	and	—	—
p. 238, l. 32,	—	projections	—	rejections
p. 239, l. 29,	for	Tygwyrn	read	Tygwyn
p. 256, l. 10, 14, 20, 32,	for	Comes	read	Cemes
p. Do. l. 14,	—	Cilgercan	—	Cilgerran
p. Do. l. 15,	—	Cewisland	—	Dewisland
p. 311, l. 22,	—	hempy	—	kempy
p. 319, l. 17,	—	Cadwyan	—	Cadwgan

ERRATA.

p. 340, l. 26, —	Tin £2	—	Tin £12
p. 341, l. 32, —	Melinciom	—	Melin cwm
p. 354, l. 22, —	some	—	since
p. 358, l. 11, —	Roscole	—	Roscob
p. 370, l. 21, & seq.	for Aberhanddy	read	Aberhonddy
p. 374, l. 14, —	Bula	—	Bala
p. 401, l. 32, —	inadequate	—	adequate
p. 405, l. 31, —	Armashead	—	Ormeshead
p. 410, l. 11, —	Pate	—	Parc
p. Do. (Note) —	λίθοις	—	λίθοις
p. Do. Do. —	Tharcian	—	Thracian



